

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

MACLEAN'S

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE | www.macleans.ca

APRIL 12 2004

HEROES OF THE CROSS

5 Canadian pastors who
are breathing new life into
their communities

Plus

GREAT FAMILY GETAWAYS

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Lennett J. Anderson of Nova Scotia

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22 **Cover**
HEROES OF THE CROSS An Eastern Time look at five pastors with hope and vision.



55 **Special**
THE JOY OF THE ROAD As summer arrives, we showcase five of Canada's most alluring, easily accessible spots for family holidays, as well as top beaches, best scenic drives and other attractions.

FEATURES

32 **Politics**
ALL OR NOTHING Tinkering with reform might give the unelected Senate more power.

36 **Hockey**
BACK IN CONTENTION There's a strong Canadian flavour to the Stanley Cup chase.

38 **Golf**
IN DEFENCE OF THE MASTERS Mike Weir beat the odds once. Why not again?

40 **Personal Finance**
THE INCOME TRAP Single-earner families don't qualify for some crucial tax deductions.

46 **China**
ENTER THE DRAGON As the Asian giant opens for business, Canada feels the impact.

50 **Photo Essay**
BOLLYWOOD DREAMS A photographer records the world's largest film industry.

52 **Asian Journal**
HEAVEN AND EARTH Some things in Malaysia are familiar, but with a twist.

70 **Syria**
IN FROM THE COLD? The question is whether this power broker is on a new path.

74 **Art**
PREPARING FOR THE FRONT LINE Humanitarian workers get survival training.

76 **Essay**
WHAT ABOUT SPELLING? Brian Bergman applauds the return of education basics.

78 **Q&A**
'I GRABBED A PULSATING LIGHT' Adam the Healer talks about his methods.

79 **Health**
NOTES Less drilling for dentists, shedding light on prostate cancer treatment, and more.

81 **Marketing**
TAKING THE WATERS Now there's H₂O for energy, weight loss and bliss consciousness.

84 **Culture**
ART OF SEDITION The Whitney Biennial demonstrates the power of dissidence.

86 **Q&A**
'ALWAYS A WINNIPEGGER' Nia Vardalos on her new movie about fake drag queens.



FAITH BORN UNDER FIRE

The headlines focus on religious strife. But there are also untold, happier stories.

THE FIRST pious person to make a strong impression on me was a headhunter fleeing of a man who looked and sounded as though he wouldn't be out of place working in a northern England coal mine. No surprise there, because Roy Stanley Andrews did that while in his early years. Then, with the start of the First World War, he fled abroad his age and joined the military. He wasn't very religious when he enlisted, but he found his faith in

the hell of trench warfare in France. There, he learned how prayer could help him survive, and companionship in the front dulled longing circumstances. By the time I met him about half a century later, when I was a boy and he was past retirement age, his faith seemed stronger than ever, and the masterful manner in which he discussed it made me message all the more compelling.

There's Rev. Andrews stands, like the first church leaders in our cover package this week (page 32), as an example of how religious belief can provide a sense of belonging, in tough times, relief. Never mind the aches that there are no atheists in fear; he's the real sort of belief comes after the danger period is over, and the second-guessing begins. What's amazing about people like Rev. Andrews or Rev. Margaret Winchford—who, as a result of her Aboriginal work, was named as a hero, which is not accidental school—is in the counterintuitive nature of their faith. Both lived experiences that could have caused them to renounce their faith, faith, instead, emerged stronger.

Another interesting thing, as a case of so much religious-based strife, is the reminder of how shared faith can bring to gether people whose backgrounds have little in common. The priest in a nearby Indian Roman Catholic church in Sudbury, Ont., is from Zambia; the head of a Vancouver United church ministering to newcomers is a Roman university professor from New Brunswick, the black minister of a Baptist church in Upper Meridale Plains, N.S., discovered shared values exclusively to blacks, who expanded the congregation to include Indians, Asians and whites. And it's why, years ago, a weary young man and a senior-year-old boy could enjoy our chess together. A nice memory at Easter,

“Never mind the aches that there are no atheists in fear: he's the real sort of belief comes after the danger period is over.”

a traditional time for spiritual healing.

SOME householding again. First, this is a double issue, as we wait's publish next week. Second, beloved organizations to columnist Mary Jean, this year's winner of the prestigious Hymn Soloist Award for public policy reporting. And welcome to three new faces: Chief of Research Valerie Marchand, who has worked at several major American magazines; Associate Editor Lauren George, now seniority at Life Canada magazine; and Assistant Art Director Nadine Senkler, previously an director at Vancouver-based Western Living magazine. Also, Joanna Puchner joined us last month as Editor at Large (Writing/Editing) after years at the National Post and several U.S. magazines.

Finally, Maclean's had good news in the recent survey conducted by the Peter MacKenzie-Bassett. The PMN results show that, with a readability of almost three million people and an average of more than six readers per copy, the magazine continues to be read by more people than the combined total of both national newspapers.

Anthony Wilson-Smith

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MACLEAN'S

Canada's National Magazine

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'I understand that same-sex couples want the same rights and privileges as heterosexual couples, but to change the definition of marriage is plain silly' —Nicole Oleson, *Florida Out*.

Something old, something new

Your cover photograph showing the Niagara Falls wedding of Michael Orr and Thomas Pore made me proud to be a Canadian. "Got a problem with this?" Coves, March 29) As a partner in a long-term heterosexual marriage, I agree entirely that marriage should be an option available for all partners who wish both the legal rights of marriage, and the dignity and joy of an official ceremony. (Dionora Schmalzer, *Seattle*)

Your cover asks, "Got a problem with this?" And the answer is, "I certainly do." Even though it is constantly repeated as a red herring, the fact remains that if the institution of marriage is redefined as anything less than or more than one man and one woman, the doors are open to polygamy, incest and child abuse. (Paul W. Martin, *Toronto*)

Your cover shows two men, obviously in love, standing in front of Niagara Falls. In bold letters, the condescending headline "Got a problem with this?" followed by the provocative title that "most Americans do" screams out for attention. As an American, I have got a problem with this. Down here in the States, nobody—but nobody—uses white flags. (Mervyn Day in the end of May. *Marina Murphy, Ontario, IL*)

Thank you for your very balanced article on same-sex marriage. We were particularly touched by Ken MacQueen's piece on Jane Eaton Hamilton and Joy Macchiani ("Mr. and Mrs. in a gay masca," Coves, March 29). As co-brothers with Jane and Joy in the B-C case, we have gotten to know them both very well and are so happy that they are now married. We attended their reception last summer in Vancouver and truly felt as if we had finally reached the summit of a very steep mountain. We would ask the people who speak out so strongly against us, "How can you deny us the right to love the person we so desperately want to share our lives with?" We will marry on July 17, two days after our 10th anniversary. (Jane



and Joy, we thank you and all the couples from B.C., Ontario and Quebec who have helped make Canada a nation of full acceptance. (Uyol Thomlin and Bob Penick, *Vancouver*)

I found your cover picture totally, absolutely disgusting. (VR Stawick, *Halifax, NS*)

I'm a Grade 12 student and I couldn't help but laugh when I read that gay people are being accused of attempting to recruit people to their lifestyle ("Across the great divide," Coves, March 29). It is pretty doubtful that gay people are trying to make other people gay. If you're straight, you're straight—that's the

Obsessed | Canadians should resist American cultural pressures

Readers: I found Wendy Law, an excellent writer, that our love for U.S. books, tv, and movies drive us to succumb to our kinks ("Where's the Line?" March 29, "I am on my mind on CNN's story week," write Tom, author of *Wreckless Drive*, "at new 11:00 Canada news about outcasts"). Added: Bill Warren of *Portage la Prairie, MB*. "Yes, what's wrong with us?"

end of it. Also, the idea that "our way of life will come to an end as we know it" is so far-fetched. It's not like hanging a banana on a concept, or a fall that everyone is going to test out. (Came on, people. (Gillian E. Egards, *Mount Hope, Ont.*)

We are average, middle class, married Canadians and we are tired of your anti-American and pro-gay bias. (Mr. and Mrs. Brian Cameron, *Calgary, Ont.*)

Thank you for your Editor's Letter, "What makes marriage," calling for understanding of same-sex marriage. Your final sentence is a truth and challenge to all of us: "But everyone deserves a chance." (Katherine Panch, *Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.*)

Inconvenience of terrorism

I always enjoy Peter Mansbridge's tolerance and his sense of humour. However, having posted his column about security at Sydney airport in *New Series*, I am surprised that he makes light of busy security at small airports. (Mansbridge on the record," March 29). Let's not forget that on 9/11, terrorists made use of low security at small airports as a way into the secured areas of much larger airports. As for screaming toddlers and grandmothers, we are seeing younger and younger kids on a daily basis being used as suicide bombers in the Middle East, so I don't see why anyone should be exempt. (Glenn Allen, *Vancouver*)

It was with a sympathetic ear and a large grin that I read Peter Mansbridge's column on airport security. Firstly, someone has managed to apply some common sense to a silly situation. I, and I'm sure a large majority of other Canadians, share his sense of frustration with the inconsistent application of airport security at Canada. As a frequent employee for a Canadian airline, I am forced to submit to these intrusive searches up to five times per day! I mean, really, let's apply a little common sense here. (Albert Pajot, *Calgary, Alberta*)

I find Peter Mansbridge's comments quite irresponsible for a journalist of his experience. While I agree that some airport security procedures may be a little extreme, his complaint about grandmothers and grandmothers being thoroughly screened shows little respect for the thought process of

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"Please Canada, let's clear up this senseless violence and get back to hockey!"

today's violence. I would paraphrase the advertisement made by a former U.S. presidential campaigner: it's the trouble factor, stupid.
BOB ALEXANDER, Alliston, Ont.

Recently, I went through the Tim Lenderdale airport in Florida where security took 45 minutes. It was not as traumatic as Sydney yet after removing shoes, belts and jackets, a drug-sniffing man behind me in line said, "Good thing I have no clean underwear" at which point one of the many police standing around approached the man. Based on the grin in his hollow, bearded, "Which is your favourite?" No feeling around in that area, and a good thing I smiled my laughter. We all want our airports safe, so we will have to keep a straight face, keep them and put up with wounded baggage, removal of clothing and long line-ups.
AND HEDD, London, Ont.

In defence of the game

Canada is all about hockey and teamwork, but lately all you are seeing is a lot of senseless fighting and injuries that cause me to wonder whatever happened to the hockey that used to be played. "No and as night," *Cover*, March 22). Please Canada and all you players: let's clear up this senseless violence and get back to hockey.
KIM HENNING, Repentigny, Que.

I am amazed that we live in a country where it is a matter of debate whether a man who

smacks another man from behind should be held criminally accountable or not. Being lenient on Todd Bertuzzi because the league sanctions violence is a bit like pardoning conscientious crime guards because they were acting under orders.
SEM CAMPBELL, Huron

Very early in my 27-year teaching career, I identified what I call the "hockey attitude." It is evident even on Grade 8, by Grade 10 all our marshall find no serious discipline. A couple of years ago, we had one Grade 8 class with six boys who were so certain that they were destined for multi-million dollar careers in the NHL that they didn't feel they would ever have any use for math and English. Naturally, they were very difficult to teach. When another teacher and I suggested they might want to keep their options open, we were taken to task by their parents for damaging their children's self-esteem. In fact to generation, but how can the same boys responsible for bullying other students? Hockey should be closed up—the long-term improvement on the social fabric would be far greater than more people realize.
MARK STERICK, Keweenaw, Ont.

Stressful salesman

As an aromatherapist, I was appalled at Patricia Pearson's essay ("Stressful? Try lavender," *March 22*). Like the candle company she accuses of flaking a "tin" for sales, she

THEMAIL

was corrupting and commercializing the word "aromatherapy." What she is actually talking about is the use of fragrance to create an ambience. Aromatherapy is actually the use of pure essential oils in a variety of methods, including inhalation, applied topically through compresses and massage. Treatment of certain disorders requires going to a properly trained aromatherapist who will know what oils to use to create a therapeutic effect. To call all this "huck" is so impossible is the candle company calling its product "aromatherapy."
SARAH KOSLOSKA, Ottawa

Patricia Pearson's essay on stress and the industry that exploits it was a bit too simplistic and smug in its conclusions. Most women don't buy into all of the hype that we are bombarded with in advertising day after day. Otherwise, we'd already be miserable because we hadn't found the perfect man yet. Many women's magazines give us a great deal of information about female health problems and personal issues. Sure, their advertisers want us to also buy their stuff, but guess what, I am sure more of us do understand how big business works—some of us even run them.
KEVIN JENNIFER, Villanova, Ont.

Regulating fat

Whether the government's intention to force trans fat labeling is commendable, it is a largely insignificant step towards combating the food industry's most insidious by-product ("Fat chance," *Marking*, March 20). Why not take it a step further and post prominent warnings like they do on cigarette packages?
MICHAEL HOWARD, Vancouver

I appreciated your March 19 article regarding the growing trend to stop eating trans fat on processed food. Everyone agrees this stuff is poison and the health experts are right in calling it the "silent killer." Your readers may be interested to know that a legislative campaign to ban the use of trans fat also gets an endorsement. My private member's bill

would require that no more than two per cent of the total fat in any food product can be trans fat. This would effectively eliminate trans fat from our foods, which is exactly what Denmark has done successfully. We should take steps now to stop people from getting sick rather than spend a fortune trying to fix them after they are broken.
PAT MARLEY, MP (NDP) Winnipeg Centre, Winnipeg

Perdita power

It's great to see a Canadian actress like Perdita Pollock having success at the world level (*Witness*, March 22). It is definitely inspiring to see that it can be done, and I think that Pollock is a great role model. Her attitude towards work and perseverance, the results are rewarding.
MOLLY MARLEY, Canine, Ont.

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MACLEAN'S BEHIND THE SCENES



A DOUBLE ISSUE FOR YOUR TIME OFF

If this magazine seems better than usual, it's because it has been super-sized. This is the first of seven double issues Maclean's will publish this year, coinciding with the dates when many Canadians traditionally enjoy time off work.

"The pace is different and people's routines tend to relax around these times. So we want to be able to give readers a nice big fat piece of reading material for the long weekend, to take to the cottage or bring on holidays and share with the next person," says Maclean's Deputy Editor Peter Kapellios.

In addition to all the regular columns and news analysis, these double issues allow more space for Maclean's writers and photographers to expand on what they do best and provide you with a good read through the holidays.

"In a lot of ways, it's more fun for the editors, too, because we have more room to work with," says Executive Editor Bob Levin.

For example, this issue includes a three-page gallery of editorial cartoons by Terry Mosher (Aster), a rare treat outside of book form.

And more than a dozen beautifully illustrated pages are dedicated to Canadian travel—as many readers plan their next getaways and summer vacations.

As with all double issues, this one will be on newsstands for two weeks, says Libby Nixon, Maclean's Group Consumer Marketing Director. "It's a chance to offer something special to regular readers and also reach a wider audience," she says.

The next one, May 24/31, will spotlight the Leaders of Tomorrow as the 2004 graduating class steps out.

In July, our special Canada Day double issue will include Maclean's 13th annual Honour Roll. You can contribute to it by nominating the Canadian you think most made a difference to this country over the past year. Send a 50-word testimonial describing your personal hero to: heroes@macleans.ca.

Want to join our growing readers' community? To register as a member of Maclean's community, visit www.macleans.ca/community.

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Keywords: PM, work-related burnout



† Value ≤ 0.05 vs. placebo; $\dagger\dagger$ between groups.



Asphalt's sole surface carbonyl had run the length of the road.



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UPFRONT



ScoreCard

W Paul Martin's MPQ 24-hr plate was tossed over Alberta, says UFG report by a list. Some suspect an accident, but other possibilities abound: a road crew jacking up the road or a pre-decision assessment from above? Not a meteor, but a metaphor.

▼ **Firing squads**
Utah ends 19th-century tradition. On May 3, death-row convicts face option of going out with a bang. State will now use only lethal injections. But four inmates who've already chosen death by bullet will get their wish. Sure, that's tough, but it's fair, too.

W Southern Living
U.S. map causes 'honest
action' regarding po-
tential for food safety
hazards seen as positive
action early in April
have confirmed water
and stormwater as
domesticated trout
exposure to organic
chemicals, like
pesticides, but are
more common you won't
find organic in
Molluscs.

Y Grouping Boxes Danish sailors plant national flag on desolate Kees Island in Canadian classroom. High Arctic mid-region affords Gagliano opportunity to plaster with maple leaves during sponsor ship debriefing. Spot presents Liberal opportunity? (1) glued to Danish; (2) held embracing them; (3) norm begins as Danish ambassador

▲ **WILLY.**
Leaseholders enjoy
15-yard penalty for
excessive calculations.
Are in 10 and ecological
and some others after
freeshowers. So how
about a rule for ecological
freeshowering
during halftime shows?

Crime | Abducted child, tragic end—continuing mystery

For five tortuous months, Raymond Zhang and his wife, Sherry Xu, held tightly to the slim chance their daughter Cecilia would return home. On the evening of March 23, two days before what would have been her 16th birthday, they lost that grip. Alikur was a university campus in Mississippi. One found student romance—Cecilia—in a wooded area 45 km west of the family's Toronto home. The Zhangs were shocked and an arrest got seemed to go into mourning.

The grisly discovery closed out a long emotional search for the pre-9/11 crash's 28 victims. Her abduction—from her home in the middle of the night on Oct. 26, with eight adults sleeping in other rooms—perplexed police. Entenreus was presumably gained through a small window a few inches above the ground; experts contended the kidnapper must have had some intimate knowledge of the family. The fact that about 30 people, mostly non-Americans from China, have rented rooms in the Zhang home

A shrine for
mourners outside
the Zhang home,
father Raymond

more years figured prominently in the investigation. And police conceded last week that not all former inmates have been found. "They're not going to track some of the people down. I'm assuming it's because they already have a suspect in mind," said Pat Brown, a Minneapolis-based profiler who has been following the case. The other possibility, of course, is that police were simply wrong.

Even without a ransom note, Toluca police who passed the ruins to Piel Police after the case became a homicide had followed a lead. Cecilia was the victim of an abduction for money. They even appeared to back away from the usual high intensity search early on in the hope that the kidnapers might want to make a deal. A ransom of \$300,000 was raised, but no ransom offer surfaced. And although the forensic details are closely guarded, a 20-year-old Cecilia died more or less like her parents, police and an entire community lived on nerves but felt home. *STORY BY*



Quote of the week | "Wow! I can get married and trade music files?? WOOT! I'm moving to Canada!"

1995-97: I'm moving to Canada: Justice Gauthier ruled that 154 of the 155 men in the group after the federal court of Canada gave a green light to defend their residency.

Mary Janigan | ON THE ISSUES



BOXED IN BY HEALTH CARE

Neither Paul Martin nor the premiers can escape the demands for more—and more

FOR PAUL MARTIN, the ads delivered a jarring wake-up call. Less than two months after he promised the provinces an extra \$3 billion for health care, those governments launched a pricey TV and print campaign to rally Canadians to demand even more money. Now, the new PM is in a bind. He wants to reduce the anxiety in federal-provincial relations. But he is no fiscal fool: in February 2003, Ottawa committed an extra \$3.6 billion over five years for health. "He wants peace with the premiers," says a federal insider. "But he is learning you can give any amount, and they will always come back for more."

Sometimes being PM is no fun. And it is going to get worse when Martin discusses health with the premiers this summer. The provinces want greater funding over a guaranteed time frame, likely 10 years. Fair enough. But Martin is cobbling together his own agenda for this summer. The February 2003 health accord that former prime minister Jean Chrétien and the premiers signed is all but dead. Its ambitious goals for minimum healthcare standards and drug coverage have been virtually ignored. This is Martin's chance to get his own deal.

Martin holds most of the cards, except with energy-rich Alberta. The Conference

“

Health care spending will grow by more than five per cent per year, and by 2010 it will eat up 44 per cent of total provincial revenues

2020, health will eat up 44 per cent of provincial revenues, up from 32 per cent in 2000. Everyone has done the math: the provinces need the feds.

The sky is not falling. "We can't afford much increase—if that is what Canadians want. Health, after all, is also an economic worry, and there are markets abroad for our products and expertise. But health is already needing spending on everything from education to the environment, and those needs also affect health. Martin is mulling the possibility of a dedicated tax or premiums geared to income, which could perhaps pay for pharmaceuticals. In return, he may want that provinces properly monitor and reduce wait times for procedures such as hip replacement.

The provinces could also do more to control unit-price power surges. And they could invest more in equipment and training. "There is clearly an ability to sustain the system," says Michael Decker, chairman of the new federal-provincial Health Council of Canada. "If you need to improve productivity and quality, rationalize how to use some public confidence."

The Conference Board has compared our health system with 23 western industrial nations—and we emerge as a largely "middle-of-the-pack performer." We are fifth in "health status" in terms such as life expectancy. But, thinking we are 10th in "health outcomes" such as deaths from heart attack. "We even have the second highest rate of sulphur oxide emissions which lead to air pollution. Such rankings are troubling—if only because we are the third highest per capita spender on health.

So when none of us are unhappy, the two levels of government will squabble bitterly, and change nothing. If we are lucky, they will agree on fundamental reforms, the long-term and lasting health of the system itself."

Mary Janigan is a political and policy writer. In 1997, she left the *Western* to report on

FaceTime

Waking to a nightmare

After two weeks in hospital, Colorado divorcee Leslie Stone Moore held her first press conference, telling reporters her happy past to be alive and free of residual pain of the brutal punch that left her with a broken neck and an agonizing future. He also said he heartily accepted calls yet from his assassin, Vancouver's Todd Barkus. "I can't



explain how scary it is to wake up to a nightmare," Moore said. "It is making a point and the next thing I know I'm lying in a room with medical personnel."



Spontaneous reaction

Paul Martin is expected to greet from the first of offending Ottas. But more to his healthy reaction to Canadians are using as for the last 100 years. The health care system was upgraded to the 10,000-bed Pacific Coastline and his future to address it to be held in May 2004.



Indian's Kennedy

Robert Kennedy Jr. is the latest member of the senior family dynasty which has ruled India on and off since independence, to break election to parliament. He is the son, grandson and great-grandson of former prime ministers, two of whom, including his father, have been assassinated in office.



A 100-year-old newspaper of the region's largest news outlet, the *British Columbia* and its sister paper, the *Vancouver Sun*, is a tribute to the author George R.R. Martin (right) in an exhibit at the British Maritime Museum in London, England. It includes a rare portrait of Martin by the late Andy Warhol.

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UPFRONT

WORLD

TERROR In a huge show of force in Britain, nearly 700 police raided 24 locations and arrested eight British-born Muslims of Pakistani heritage on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack. The big find in this case—on a self-storage facility near Heathrow Airport—was a cache of nearly half a tonne of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, a key ingredient in old IRA car bombs and the one that set off the conflagration in Bali, Indonesia, a year ago. The investigation appeared to reach across the Atlantic.

In a nearly simultaneous raid, RCMP arrested 24-year-old Mohammad Moridin Khawaja, an Ottawa computer specialist who did contract work for Foreign Affairs. He is believed to be the first arrest under Canada's new anti-terror law. His father, Mahfouz Khawaja, a well-known Islamic scholar, was detained by authorities in South Arabia where he was working.

AFGHANISTAN A raging groundfire U.S. results on al Qaeda fighters in neighbouring Afghanistan, the former Soviet republic was jolted by a sharp uptick in militant terrorism. At least 42 people died during days of clashes, sparked when two mortar suicide bombers set off devices in a child's store and in a bus stop in Kabul.

Meanwhile, in a high-powered meeting in Germany, Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai won promises of US\$8.2 billion in



LAST ORDERS

It's a country where the stars goers light up in the midst of a plot, but that didn't stop the Irish government from trying in the world's most stringent anti-smoking law, with fines up to \$5,000. It is available to smoke in all outdoor public spaces, which means, of course, the Irish's own 10,000 pubs.

Germany and over the next three years. He has been making guarantees of US\$20 billion over seven years.

ALLIANCES NATO formally added seven countries in Eastern Europe to its now 26-member military alliance, an expansion that reaches right up to the Russian border.

BY PATRICK LAMONTAGNE



Angry at what it calls the rise of "anti-Basque forces" on its doorstep, particularly with the NATO addition of former Soviet republics Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Moscow denounced the move and expelled three Lithuanian diplomats for spying.

Spain, meanwhile, while still pulling troops from Iraq, will also substantially curtail NATO-led counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan later this year, taking over Canada's spot in the rotation.

FRANCE Fiding a huge wave of anti-war support just a year ago, French President Jacques Chirac's governing party suffered a crushing defeat in regional elections, largely because of health and job reforms. The Socialist party made the largest gains while Chirac, who is not up for re-election until 2007, responded unapologetically. Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, baffling observers.

JUSTICE The U.S. violated the rights of 53 Mexicans on death row by denying them timely representation by Mexican authorities at the time of their arrests, the UN's Inter-American Court of Justice in The Hague ruled. Washington agreed to review the cases, which may lead to retrials or new sentencing hearings, as Mexico requested.

SAME SEX Massachusetts lawmakers voted to end the state's ban on gay marriage, though not marriage between same-sex partners in the courtroom to a May 17 legal deadline confirmed. Enacted by a highest court to issue marriage licenses to gay couples by that date, the governor works the court to grant a stay would render the court on constitutional grounds.

in November 2006 at the earliest.

Georgia legislators approved a measure to allow for an outright constitutional ban on gay marriage in that state. It will now be put before voters in November.

CANADA

SECURITY On the same day as the Khawaja arrest, Auditor General Sheila Fraser reported gaping holes in Canada's national security net. Among them: that as many as 4,500 people with suspicious backgrounds may have slipped the country's five largest airports, that only in February did the Canadian Passport Office begin passing along the newest information about lost or stolen passports to police and border officers.

DOWNLOADING To the joy of music swappers—and at odds with recent decisions in the U.S.—the Federal Court shut down the Canadian recording industry and ruled that downloading a song from the Internet or making music available in shared databases like iTunes is not a copyright infringement unless causing Canadian loss (as long as it's for personal use).

DRUG-BUST U.S. and Canadian police broke up huge ecstasy-making operations in two

milking in nearly US\$85 million in assets in illegal sales. With language in Toronto and Ottawa, the ring was distributing ecstasy pills and marijuana to 79 U.S. and Canadian cities. Warrants have been issued for 170 people.

POLITICS There will be no appeal of Sheila Copps's nomination loss in the riding she held for 39 years. Liberal brains completed a hearing after Copps refused to keep quiet about the proceedings. She gets her \$1,000 appeal fee back.

Prime Minister Paul Martin appointed former B.C. NDP premier Ujjal Dosanjh to be a candidate for the Liberals in the next election. Two other prominent British Columbiaers are also helping to carry Liberal coffers. Industry executives David Johnston and Shirley Chisholm, one-time aide to former NDP premier Mike Harcourt.

HIV The Montreal hospital in which an AIDS-infected surgeon operated on nearly 2,600 children over a 13-year period with out clear guidelines said it has turned up no cases of HIV in blood samples taken from

2,175 former patients. Others have not responded to an appeal.

ANTI-SEMITISM Three teens aged 15 to 18 were charged with mischief following a series of anti-Semitic incidents, including supplying 70 addresses at a Jewish cemetery, that shocked Toronto last month.

SEPARATISM If it had won the 1995 referendum, Jacques Parson's PQ government had \$17 billion laid up to snap up provincial bonds it felt might be dumped on the market by nervous investors. Those in on the scheme included some prominent Bay Street investment firms, which apparently foresaw a profit in the plan, according to a previously secret document.

EMPLOYEES Newfoundland headed for a long civil service strike as 20,000 angry employees walked off the job and the province responded with plans to lay off as many as 4,000 because of an \$840-million deficit.

COMMUNICATION Is a nod to an ancient tongue: Microsoft will reach its popular Windows XP system 100 speak. Inuktitut. The translation will apply only to Windows commands, so programmers won't have to confront the many Inuit words for snow.



BARBARIC

With barbaric brutality, on a rainy night in the E-shaped town of Pittsburgh, about 120 two SUVs carrying four American Jewish construction workers were shot, burned and burned to death in their vehicles. One vehicle, a Chevrolet, was carrying a group of adults and children. Most of the bodies, buried at least two through the rubble and hung from trees, were taken from the American, Ukrainian, U.S. officials planned to find and punish the perpetrators.

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CALL SOON? CALL LATER?

The scandal-plagued Liberals are split on the best time for a federal election

EASTER HOLIDAYS—a time for family and friends. But this year, if you're Paul Martin, it's also time for a decision. After hanging his name in an election would come none other than him. The PM knows that sooner is now fast approaching. A late May or early June vote would mean an election called soon after the Easter break. Not necessarily, there are different views about whether that's the best strategy—waiting in spite within the Liberal caucus and, one should assume, with in the cabinet and Martin's own circle of advisers.

Those who want the election before the summer make their arguments: polls no shake that Martin remains the party leader seen as the best to be prime minister, they also show the Liberals with a double-digit lead, traditionally more than enough for a majority. The strategists who organized a stunning 94 per cent support for Martin at the leadership convention should also see a national election campaign well as well. The Conservatives—their or theirs—may have a new leader but remain disorganized at the riding level, with candidate nominations still a messy race between the old Alliance and PC wings. The sponsorship scandal investigation could drag on for months, it seems, and fall far unpredictable. And finally, a prime minister should leave more data from the people before entering one of the most important first minister's decisions, on health care.

“Tradition ignored his advisers who wanted to run against Joe Clark in 1977, and instead ran out the clock on his mandate and lost in 1979.”

Convinced? Well, then to the arguments for waiting and fall the Liberal brand name has been severely damaged, and, despite Martin's personal popularity, that

damage could be fixed if not given time to heal. The party is still bleeding from the perceived coup against Jean Charest. A 10-point lead is no guarantee of a majority in today's world. Stephen Harper and the Conservative are a 'Shocking Day and the Alliance, and Jack Layton could be a serious spoiler. And the sponsorship scandal could be masked by the emergence of other issues, such as a strong Martin performance at the health-care talks.

History records the good and not so good decisions made by former PMs faced with this same moment. Prime Trudeau gave his advisers who wanted to run against Joe Clark in 1977, and instead ran out the clock on his mandate and lost in 1979. Clark took the advice of his strategists and called an immediate election when his budget was delayed—he was tossed out two months later. John Turner flew to London just weeks after he won the Liberal leadership to ask the Queen to award her planned summer visit so he could call an election; he never made another flying visit as PM. Brian Mulroney said there should be an election every four years; he followed his own advice and was Kim Campbell spent her post-convention win having the summer barbecue once instead of calling an election when she did call one, she was left with two seats. And then there was Chretien—in 2000, just three years into his second mandate and against conventional wisdom, he pulled the plug and won not only his third majority but his largest. In those a loss in an all-time perhaps nothing more than a different time and different leaders demand different decisions. But in every case it was gut check time for a prime minister—that moment when, no matter how much advice you're getting, the decision is yours and yours alone. Good luck, Mr. Martin. Your job is on the line always you. ■

Paul Martin was in Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National. To comment: letters@nbcnews.com

Passages

SUMO Fired Via Rail chairman Jean Pelletier, a long time aide to Jean Chrétien, swung back with a \$5.1-million wrongful dismissal suit against the Paul Martin government and Via. A casualty of the sponsorship scandal, Pelletier was let go in March after belabouring whistle-blower and former Olympic champion Myriem Bédard.

DIED Despite pain from his three grown children, a National People Board panel tossed down a bid for early parole by former Saskatchewan cabinet minister Colin Thatcher, 65, convicted 24 years ago for the murder of ex-wife Judith Wilson.

DIED Master storyteller Peter Onorato died from heart failure at 82 in Switzerland, leaving behind four children from two of his three marriages and a legion of adoring fans. An actor, director, writer, producer and 13 award wins, Onorato won two Oscars as well as a Gemini for narrating *Peter and the Wolf*.

DIED Andy Bradwell, 33, a Victoria, B.C., father of three and former British marine working for British Oilco. Security, was killed in an ambush in Iraq while providing protection for General Electric engineers.

WON Kim G. Kinnick Duffin was awarded the \$15,000 winners' first of Canada prize for political writing for his gritty memoir *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Inside of Terrorism in Rwanda*.

DIED Legendary British broadcaster Alan Turing, 95, died from heart failure in New York City 38 years after his first letter from America dispatched for BBC radio. He reported on everything from everyday life to the assassination of Robert Kennedy, which Cooke viewed from miles away. He was the original host of PBS's *Masters of Deceit*.

Paul Martin was in Chief Correspondent of CBC Television News and Anchor of The National. To comment: letters@nbcnews.com

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At Easter time, we
celebrate five pastors
with hope and vision

For I was a hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye have come unto me: ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me (Matthew 25:35-40)

The New Testament is very clear on what the mission Church expected from its ministers. Preaching, yes—expounding on the words and deeds of Jesus—but also healing, care and fellowship in this world. Priests and pastors are the heart of their local Christian communities, which rise or fall with them. For Easter, Christianity's time of hope and renewal, Maclean's profiles five ministers—physical as well as spiritual—who have brought that hope and renewal to an abled congregation.

Father Rodgers Mwambi came from Zambia to revive an Italian, Russian Catholic parish in Northern Ontario. Born on the East Coast, Rev. Ruth Wright left a comfortable academic career to minister in Free United Church in Vancouver's poverty-stricken Downtown Eastside. Pere Alain Mangena, inspired by his travels among the small religious communities that sprouted up in the former Communist bloc, has brought young people back to his Montreal parish. Lemmet J. Anderson, coming full circle, left the navy to return in pastor to his boyhood church, Nova Scotia's Keweenaw Bay. Blackfoot elder and Anglican priest Margaret Wasteski may have travelled the harder road of all—from a harsh residential school through years of alcoholism to a small church in the Indian reserve.



FULL CIRCLE OF LOVE AND FAITH

Once his church's youngest member, he's now the visionary at its helm

WAS IT LEMMET J. ANDERSON'S destiny to end up behind the pulpit at Keweenaw Baptist Church, a few kilometers from where he grew up in Upper Humberstone Plains, N.S.? You be the judge. He joined the congregation at age 8, becoming the youngest member in the history of the new 40-year-old church, and a year later preached his first sermon. Later, Anderson entered the Canadian Forces, which put him through university on a scholarship, eventually becoming a naval officer. But that was just a diversion before he heard God's call. He headed to Acadia University for a Master of Divinity degree. Then, when he was 23, the preacher's job opened up at his old church, and Anderson became Keweenaw Baptist's 15th pastor, "I believe," says Anderson, now 28, "that I am in the place God made me at this."

He inherited a church with a storied history—it was founded by freed slaves in 1845—but it was uncertain future by 1980, attendance on Sundays had fallen to around 35 or 40 souls, most of them at least middle-aged. Now, take in one of his sermons—if you can. Fighting through freezing rain, some 200 people crowded the small sanctuary one recent Sunday to hear Anderson spread the word. Once seated

racially black, the crowd—which swells to 300 some Sundays—now includes Indians, Asians and whites, a living embodiment of the banner draped across a wall bearing the words "Persevered ... out of every tribe, tongue, people and nation."

What's more, the church is dealing with young people again: infants in their mothers' arms, children waiting for Sunday school to start, home-springing teenagers who are also members of the church's dance troupe, basketball team, literary program or other youth groups started since Anderson took over. "People have an ability to really connect with the youth," says Kamlee Oliver, 34. "He seems like one of us."

The increased traffic at Keweenaw Baptist partly reflects several new housing developments that have sprung up around the Halifax

Anderson's life, rituals and sermons have brought sacred services

HEROES OF THE CROSS

between community. Yet this doesn't explain the dozens of people from outside the area who arrive by car and on foot on each Sunday. "I've been looking at this town for a year, for like ever, with an ability to take the word of the Bible and make it relevant to my life," says Rev. Hurdak, 51, a retired retail executive who has attended the Bowen Jubilee, United and Free Christian churches, and was a volunteer social host a week to attend Emmanuel Baptist.

Andreas is a calm, smiling pastor on the pulpit. He wears the same, full-length traditional robes of the Baptist church, but it's hard to imagine the 40-year-old predecessor preaching the way Andreas does to the crowd—praising with enough fire, insight and poof that on stage to inspire a series of paintings by Christopher Webb, a artist from Halifax. Andreas shows style and use of props (a bottle of wine, a can of beer) during his sermons. He's a pastor who can argue with the results? This fall, Emmanuel Baptist will break ground on its long-awaited, \$1.2 million expansion, which will triple the size of the church, a necessity since the old facility is bursting at the seams.

Andreas' reputation has spread beyond Upper Meriville Plains. He's been recruited to represent Canada at a conference on Afro-Christian Worship and Social Transformation that will be held at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, this summer, and is regularly asked to preach at other congregations throughout Nova Scotia. But the pastor, who is married to Yvonne, employment education specialist from Halifax, and would like to have children one day, has his hands full where he is. "I am humbled and honored by these invitations, but my heart is with Emmanuel Baptist Church," he says. "The day is the first. God is about to blow our national minds." A preacher cracks up in his own little back-sitting room? Perhaps. But even in even the coldest day the house of faith built inside Emmanuel Baptist.

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BLESSED ARE THE POOR

Rev. Ruth Wright nourishes body and soul in Canada's toughest inner-city neighbourhood

IT DOESN'T LOOK TERRIBLY HOLY in first glance. The front steps of First United Church in Vancouver's downtown Eastside are crowded with street people, a few of them obviously high. Two addicts are smoking a dual pipe at the foot of the building's eastern flank in a futile hunt for crumbs of crack cocaine. Inside the concrete structure, peeped out on the pavement, is a street, with an empty door to escape a rainy winter, but a full-on, blanket-covered snow. Behind the glass, an elderly couple waits to be served by a priest. Others left their troubles to one of three new priests in staff.

God was somewhere in this bustling inner-city neighbourhood, but there's been an ecclesiastical presence here at the corner of Hastings and Gore streets since the Presbyterian in 1885. The community has always been diverse, the ground floor, the economy is low. First United opened in the late 19th, the poor have been with it ever since. Soap lines, sometimes in the early 1980s, and social issues today. The challenges are different, but the aim has always been to nourish body and soul, says Rev. Ruth Wright, the executive director and fund-raiser who has been minister at this 1,000-seat United Church mission. The mission is first and foremost, but it's also a place of prayer, study, and occasionally controversy, but it's God who is responsible, why should his church be any different?

It's a typical Sunday, a rainy day, 10 people are sitting in the pews. Some 50 people regularly catch a daylight up with the sanctuary—on the main floor, after walking the streets all night, she says, or because their welfare has been so poor or that it's a slow day. She opens the door to a kitchen running full throttle. There was soup for 300 the morning. Now volunteers, staff, many of them former United Church, get ready for the main morning coffee line—a million cups served last year. It's the last day before Lent. Staff and volunteers run a food bank, distribute clothes, attend job training and care

people, income tax returns so residents qualify for GST rebates. Groceries are given away. And, in a room adjacent to the New Testament, a young female volunteer levels with a bowl to wash and treat the afflicted, using hot oil and lemon vinegar.

Wright arrived at this job in 1997, a poor, unlikely job. She was born near Montreal, N.B., to a family of modest means, and went on to attend the University of Toronto to a comfortable life as a professor of health and education administration. She was comfortable, she says. She was ordained in 1996, and settled in downtown Vancouver. A call to inner-city ministry drew her to Vancouver.

In her seven years here, the neighbourhood drug of choice has changed from heroin to crack to crystal methamphetamine—with ever-worsening results. This is compounded, she says, by "the government's" "poor" care. "When I first came here in '96, we talked about the life expectancy in this community as being 45," she says. "They now talk about it being 40."

Wright was among the first to demand an investigation into the unexplained disappearance of Vancouver street men. Since then, she's conducted too many memorial services for women whose names are linked to accused mass murderer Robert Pickton. She also missed backlogs by the police, after "a whole lot of praying," to set up a safe mission for the church. She was surprised that people after a truly joyful experience nearby lost faith. There are religious services each morning, but unlike many churches in the area, First United does not demand attendance before giving help. "I don't remember any particular story in the past that suggests Jesus had people do things before they were served," says Wright. "Quite the contrary. They were first ministered to and were free to walk away." She believes there is something spiritual in every conversation, every kindness, every washing cup of coffee. "God is really hard to find if you start focusing on the problems of this community. But God is extremely easy to find when you look somebody in the eye." **—KIM MACQUEEN**

Wright believes there's something spiritual in every conversation

GOING THROUGH GOLGOTHA

The hard road from despair to hope

LIKE MANY NATIVE PEOPLE of her generation, Margaret Waterchief attended a church-run residential school, an institution like soft-soled shoes, silver hairnet? 72-year-old now recalls as "heaven or hell, a prison for kids?" Although her parents lived a couple of thousand miles away, the Anglican school authorities allowed Waterchief to visit her family for just a few hours each Saturday. Discipline was harsh, the use of her Blackfoot language discouraged and Native spirituality shunned as the dean's handwork. "That was replaced," she says, "by a new religion called Christianity which taught us that, if we didn't believe, God would send us to this everlasting fire. We went scared into believing."

Many Aboriginals lived with similar experiences or worse—witness the thousands of sexual and physical abuse lawsuits by former residential school students—turned away from Christianity Not Waterchief who, at age 12, became an ordained Anglican priest. But her spiritual journey was not an easy one. Along the way, she struggled with poverty and personal demons such as alcoholism. Her first brush with what she came to see as God's grace occurred during a tuberculosis epidemic that swept through Native communities in the early 1950s. Waterchief was coughing up blood and feared she might die. As she fell asleep one night, she had a vision of Christ standing at the foot of her bed, his hair golden and his face radiant. He assured her she would live, but added: "You will have to go through this place called Golgotha."

At the time, Waterchief didn't understand what those words meant. She soon found out: After 13 months of convalescing, Waterchief returned home determined to live a Christian life. But she had to cope with a rigidly growing family and an alcoholic husband who died of the disease in 1970 at the age of 42. After



Waterchief and others often struggle with the same demons.

his death, Waterchief began to drink heavily as well and, at times, dealt with her 13 children in ways she now deeply regrets. "I thought these God was angry and vengeful," she says. "I was whipped them because that's what had happened to us when we were enslaved."

By the early 1980s, Waterchief was at the end of her rope. She expected to die for help. "If

“
Waterchief combines the spiritual teachings of her Native ancestors with her deep Christian faith

your life is to change, you have to come to repentance,” she says quietly, but firmly. “For me, that meant seeing where your life is heading, which is towards destruction. So I turned to God and asked for forgiveness.”

Waterchief quit drinking and took up work as an alcohol counsellor and lay Anglican pastor. She kept her family together

and is now the great-grandmother of 26 and great-grandmother of five. In 2004, she became the first Aboriginal woman to be ordained by the Anglican Diocese of Calgary. Along the way, her religious views evolved. “My God is a God of love,” says Waterchief. “It’s not for me to judge or condemn anyone.” She also began to explore the spiritual teachings of her Alutic ancestors. “They practiced what Jesus recommended, that we love ourselves for one another. I can take what is good from that and combine it with my Christian faith.”

All of this was good preparation for Waterchief’s next undertaking—serving as a spiritual elder at the Calgary Urban Projects Society, an inner-city agency that deals with the needs of the poor, many of them Aboriginal. Until she left CUPS this past Christmas, Waterchief was known as an angel of mercy who was always there with a cup of coffee, a sandwich and, most important, an open ear.

These days, Waterchief tends to her regular family while continuing to conduct funerals, weddings, baptisms and communion at the small Anglican church on the Blackfoot reserve, 100 km east of Calgary. This coming weekend, she will be there again administering the sacraments and reflecting on the meaning of it all. For Waterchief, the great themes of Easter—forgiveness of sins, redemption in the presence of a new life—live again in a crowd. They are a biography. And she feels constantly blessed by the opportunity to live out her faith in service to others.

BRYAN KILGORE



'HOSPITAL FOR THE SOUL'

A priest tends to his parish like a missionary

CASUAL CLOTHES, an easy smile and a quick mind that takes putting ideas translated into smart talk—Bro. Alain Mongeau seems like anything but what he is in real life: the devil, or pastor, of a long-established, long-faltering and now reviving Catholic congregation situated in the heart of the trendy Plateau Mont-Royal district of Montreal. “I call myself a missionary,” says the 40-year-old priest, who has revived his St-Jacques-de-Montreal parish by attracting a core group of 150 young people to his church. “Many of them knew almost nothing about faith, religion and what comes with it. They had to be evangelized first.”

While Montreal was “a city where you couldn’t throw a rock without breaking a church window,” as Mark Twain once described it, the inner-city Catholic parishes of the Plateau were the breeding ground of a flourishing French-Canadian protestant, and the lastest port for successive waves of European immigrants. Back then, the church dominated politics, social and cultural life as well. It provided the basic social net—schooling, health care, community life—and the conf was first among equals amid the local elite, because he could invoke God or the Pope and dispense the dos and don’ts of daily life: girls should not ride bicycles, women should not use contraception, men should not borrow money at pawn shops.

Today all that remains of that era are the churches themselves—large, lavishly decorated, expensive, empty monuments to a culture most Quebecers deserted in the early 1960s. “The Church in Quebec today is old, and weak, and discouraged,” Mongeau says. “Whoever will survive of it is 30 years in what we are building now. The parish as we have known it will have vanished.”

There are no more Irish immigrants, no more struggling protestants, or the generalist

Mongeau’s work has revived his long-faltering Montreal church

today African designer everything from bars, restaurants, open levels in walk-up flats where huge families used to be crowded in. The place is inhabited by no child youths and frequented by trendy youngsters and suburbanites driving German cars, mingling with parkrunners and parkrunners. "We're finding out that the faded plateau lifestyle

“Many of his flock knew little about religion before, says the pastor, and had to be evangelized first.”

does not meet all their needs,” says Mungwa. “There was not the only place to meet people. The church did not lead the way.”

The last thing you'd expect to find in St. Anthony's Church in Sudbury, Ont., is a vibrant community of young-eyed, clean-shaven, security-minded young Catholics who are redefining the parameters and social values that came with membership in the Church. “Some of them are students living in communities,” notes the pastor, “some are angry street kids, others back-to-back residents, many are just delivery folks making kids—an interesting mix. They are not proselytizers, and people who share some values and are creating a community.” There is more to it than attending the traditional Sunday Mass. They hang around for a communal lunch on Sundays, plan outings and charity work, and gather regularly to pray, learn and discuss issues. “They form a community.”

And how do the Church's stringent positions on moral values play with its flock? “Look, I am not at the bowser at the door of the club saying, ‘Welcome, you’re out!’ The Church's teachings are not a strict set of rules to be followed; they are more like stars in the sky helping us get a bearing. I am the shepherd?” There's danger, Mungwa says, in strict fundamentalism. “The Church is not a moving place for people to go to a hospital for the soul. I can tell you I am not against your sex life or what makes you happy, but can you visit to someone talking about creating love and getting along life?”

Mungwa says he found inspiration in the small religious communities that were approaching him out of range and in the former Goshen man who, while he travelled extensively from 1985 to 1996 he was ordained in 1997. He translated the model here, and it seems to be working. “The Church” he concludes, “never really woke up.” BENJAMIN AUBIN



Mungwa told his flock members without hesitation, by

SUDBURY SAVIOUR

The arrival of a priest from Zambia brought new life, and laughter, to an Italian parish in Northern Ontario

A TAD DIFFERENT There's how Mass at St. Anthony's Church in Sudbury, Ont., might be described. First off there's the occasional explosion of laughter, a jolt for those accustomed to the typically somber Catholic service. Then there's the wide-spreading during the sermon, the informal camaraderie between priest and deacons, the *homelike* and *loose* before and after Mass. It all leads back to the man at the altar. Commanding the pulpit at this small-town parish is a very unconventional priest. He's African, Zambian to be exact, and also the only black face in the church. But it's not

his colour, his accent or the way he instantly switches into a perfectly enunciated *Swahili* that really stands out. It's the laughter from his parishioners, which is a testament to the fact that Father Rodgers Mungwa—although he's far too humble to accept any credit—most likely saved this church from being shut down, but also revitalized it.

Without enough priests to keep open these churches alone the city's Italian community, the parish's bishop had planned to merge them into one, with St. Anthony's slated to close at the process. Instead, the congregation opted

to find its own priest. In the spring of 2002 presbyter Tony Little called his friend Mungwa, who was studying for his master's in theology, where he had become fluent in Italian. They had met two years earlier in Rome, Italy, where Mungwa was on a break from his studies. Last May Mungwa flew from his part of the world, he was interested in the West, where a desperate shortage of priests loomed. He picked up Father Rodgers Mungwa, knowing little about it save its reputation for making money. “I was wanting to go where there was a need for me,” says the 36-year-old. “He spread the good news and help Christians come together. Canada had that need.” And Africa has the supply.

While for young Western men the sound of the religious call has diminished to an audible ping, young Africans are hearing it as though God is blasting a trumpet directly into their ears. Seminary towns are booming, with one day study. Compared to 20 years ago, their times as many priests are being ordained in Africa—the largest growth in the world, as poverty and war continue to hold off the secularism of the West and Africa has begun to expect to see that shift. The trend is symptomatic of an entire religious divergence among the two cultures and the future is clear. It's the standard of living, the Catholic of the West are the new leaders, and Southern men of God like Mungwa, their missionaries.

Let there be no guarantee that Mungwa will be welcome in their new canonical world. Sudbury is a city where only 10 per cent of the population is African, and St. Anthony's, a traditional Italian parish where there are still a few old women who drop themselves in black clothing, clutch rosaries in the pews and sing prayers to St. Anthony. But Mungwa won't ever be consoled by furthering his sense of community and joy, remembrance of how things are done in Africa. He introduced laughter into the service, preached sermons that apply to everyday life, and helped around the parish's streets visiting the sick and the elderly. Father Mungwa, where he landed to play back in Africa, for the enthusiasm he injected into their church, weekly collections have doubled. “For me, these people have become my father, mother and brothers,” he says, going on to acknowledge, though, that he has had to adapt, and not just to Sudbury's preaching call. “While the spirit of the Church is always the same, its culture and customs are different, and so the way of ministering has to suit the given environment.”

INCULTURATION is the term they used in a missionary circle. It meant maintaining the moral soul of the religion while spending the West, but shaping its color, culture to fit the culture. Adapted for Western times, the principle still applies these days, only in reverse. In this case, a priest like Mungwa knows that, fundamentally, people here just don't desire the way they do it in Africa, or in Ghana. Since last August, Father Rodgers Mungwa has ministered in St. Anne's parish in the town of Kingston, N.B., just an hour out of Fredericton, where he ministered. The way he performed Mass in Kingston is like his experience in how he did it at home. “Our services there last up to three hours,” he says. “And of course people get up to dance and sing. They prepare

through the week so they can really participate in Mass and have something to say. Here it is much different, much less.” he says, and laughs. It's a whole different way of seeing his words. “I believe it took a while to get used to.”

But using foreign-born priests unfortunately is the preferred strategy for dealing with the clergy shortage, even in the past decade, 500 parish priests have closed in Canada. For St. Anthony's, Mungwa's presence is a huge boost. “I don't believe closing churches is the way to go, you need a close-knit church and people will go. I don't want to say the end of the Church. Some people don't want to do it, though, because they think the cultural differences are too great.”

And while some cultural differences are quickly smoothed over—African priests don't like to be the center of individuals' worships, over the years, Western Catholics have become increasingly liberal, with many advocating such reforms as the ordination of women, gay rights and marriage for priests. For most African Catholics, however, these ideas are unthinkable. Philip Jenkins, professor at Baylor at Fort Worth and an expert on Christianity in the developing world, sees both sides of the coin. “If the Church had to choose whether to appeal to the Catholics of the Congo or France,” writes Jenkins in his book *The New Christian*, “then simple self-interest would persuade them to favour the burgeoning Southern Christianity.”

Not, while diasporans suggest an appropriate divide reminiscent of the last for modernism, recent history suggests otherwise. As their religious beliefs have integrated with secular values, Western Catholics have successfully opened up within an unorthodox worldview that allows them to believe in non-Catholic values without forsaking a Catholic identity. The new associations seem to understand—and to move—toward the Catholic faith here. Mungwa knows he has to do this way the culture can accept. “I'm not trying to change anything,” he says. “As a priest and with the parishioners, we are just trying to see what we can do together, to pray together and come for social interactions, reach out to one another and make our lives as enjoyable as possible. It is not good to be depressing. Because this is our goal now.” CHRISTOPHER BENTON

ALL OR NOTHING

Tinkering with Senate reform might end up giving an unelected body more power

WANTED: dispiritable parliament. How many and what sort? Let's see, there are five vacant seats in the Senate, so a couple of arms-twisting friends here, an iron of work politics side, and a brace of regional bosses adapt at stacking ruling nominations meetings should about do it. Other reforms will be kept on file. Thank you for your interest. All on day's patronage work—or at least it would have been for prime ministers past. There are disturbing hints, though, that Paul Martin is considering introducing a less obvious approach to selecting senators. In the current overheated atmosphere surrounding government ethics, pressure must be building on him to find a way to make appointments to the upper chamber more palatable. To which anyone truly devoted to democracy can only say: don't do it, Prime Minister.

Perhaps some Canadians won't immediately see the merit in this stance. A recent poll for the Canada West Foundation found a large majority in favour of Senate reform. Not surprisingly, in the West, where favouring the Senate is an emblematic regional demand, 84 per cent favour electing senators. But so did 72 per cent in Ontario, where the concept has less traditional support. Stephen Harper gets big overtime by shouting that he'll appoint only senators elected by the provinces. More Senate Premier John Hume recently said he likes the idea. No wonder. The upper chamber of our federal Parliament is pretty hard to rule. The 105 members are named at a prime minister's whim and, sure, if that's the model for it, until '74, reflecting their significant salaries whether they deliver good value for money (and some did) or not (also known to happen). Unlike elected MPs, who can be unseated, they can never be held to account. And that's what it all comes down to.

Yet edging around reform would be worse than no reform at all. Martin wants to realize this, but perhaps not quite clearly enough. "I don't really think that government reforms works," he said last year when asked about the idea of parliament holding elections to choose senators he would then dutifully appoint. He added, though, that MPs might review Senate appointments, a more modest update that fits with his plan for some sort of House veto over the judges he'd elevate to the Supreme Court of Canada. Sounds reasonable enough. But consider what it would mean: any new senators would have been duly nominated by the elected representatives of the people. The longer, unbroken streaks of party politics they would carry the representative democracy, from quite the antidote because by the ballot box.

How could such well-thought senators be kept in line? It's hard

enough the way the system works now. Last week, a tough minority cabinet effort, including direct lobbying by Martin himself, to prevent Liberal senators from voting down often legislation that had been sent to them by the House of Commons. They had already rejected the bill once, on the grounds that it flowed on the Senate on ethics watchdog appointed by the prime minister. (Imagine the affront to their dignity.) And this was only the latest instance of the appointed parliamentiers defying the will of the elected ones. In recent history, the Senate has balked at passing legislation on subjects as weighty as free trade and pension reform.

It's astonishing that Canadians tolerate these periodic upper-chamber uprisings. They would become much more frequent if more senators were appointed in a way that gave them a more plausible claim to legitimacy. If senators got their jobs in a system that put some distance between them and the Prime Minister's Office patronage machine, they might well feel honour bound to act independently—and that would mean regularly turning up their noses at legislation a prime minister has pushed through the Commons.

Maybe that's the kind of Senate Canadians want. First, they should elect governments in Ontario and the provinces that offer the prospect of that sort of constitutional reform. The reality is that such negotiations have been all but inconceivable since the re-election of Jean Chrétien in 1993. Those who want an elected Senate know this. Seeing that formal talks aren't in the cards, they're trying to happen upon any route open, they hope to inaugurate a period of incremental change.

One promising advocate of this strategy is Ted Morton, a University of Calgary political science professor "elected" when Alberta went to 1996 for the first time they would like the prime minister to vote alone in the Senate from their position. (It's still waiting.) As soon as prime ministers start regularly accepting the outcome of such non-binding senior decisions, Morton says, an irreconcilable process being set in motion. All provinces would hold such votes. Elected senators would be "appointed" into the Senate at the rate of a few every year as seats open up. This slow rate of turnover would gradually sweep out, referring to relatively as easy the will of the House. Finally, after a decade or so, the bicameral system would be so great that formal constitutional change would be unnecessary to catch up with the fact of a powerful, new parliamentary force. Asked if he doesn't think this is kind of silly, Morton says, "That's underestimating Canadian's capacity to



unconvinced what would be going on." In other words, it would be all right because we would all be in on it.

Except for the provinces. Martin admits they would almost certainly be against the rise of the new Senate, because it would supplant them at the main seat of the provinces and regions in the heart of national politics. This would essentially diminish the importance of provincial governments in the complex, counter-weighted mechanisms of Confederation. That is big stuff, which is why constitutional amendment is so difficult in our system. It should be. It's about how we govern ourselves. There must be no back door way to accomplished such fundamental change.

Many senators argue that there is nothing wrong with sticking to the status quo. In fact, a recent collection of essays edited by Senator Serge Joyal, *Protecting Canadian Democracy: The Senate Has Never Been*, essentially makes that case over 371 pages

(Wouldn't you have thought a volume on the Senate's role in safeguarding democracy would be among these thin political books, along with Paul Martin's *Scenes of Cross-Continental and Belated Crosswalk: Her Life as Public Service*?) Joyal's project misses the point: senators' occasional good works can't make up for the Senate's fundamental role in our system as a place of patronage and privilege.

Tinkering with the appointment process can't dig up that rotten foundation, it can only create confusion over the Senate's underlying, unimpeachable nature. Best to keep that uncomfortable reality out of the open. That's why we need appointees nobody will mistake for enemies of the people. If the Prime Minister needs from the necessity of naming partisan power at his own, hark back to that: those must still be some overlooked Christian laypeople who would gladly take the place.

WE NEED
appointees no one will
mistake for tribunes of the
people—perhaps some
more Christian laypeople?

BACK IN CONTENTION

There's a strong Canadian flavour to the NHL playoffs, CHARLIE GILLIS writes

HOCKEY COULD use a few more Denis Gauthiers. At a time when the game is increasingly defined by its villains—the violent, the gladdening and the absurdly overpaid—here is a genuine good guy. For five long seasons, the Calgary Flames defenceman joyfully endured the NHL's equivalent of a prime drought, dying a little inside each spring as his team faded from playoff contention. He never complained, never blamed a teammate, never sought a trade. Like every April, as he packed up his clothes for yet another trip home to Montreal, Gauthier's misery deepened. "You start doubting yourself," he says. "You wonder whether you're doing enough, all those kinds of things. Those were not happy times."

This year, things are different. For the first time since 1996, the Flames have qualified for the post-season, rekindling the season of playoff magic that swept Calgary annually during the 1980s, when the team was at the height of its power. Now, at the ripe age of 37, and with enough games under its belt to be called a veteran, Gauthier is skating in his first NHL playoff series. True to form, he ripped his hair to the line, radiating a claim to credit for himself. "I feel like I've been through all the hard times with them," he says. "Yes, I'm happy for the team, and for myself, too. But for the fans who were willing to stick in with us, well, you just can't say enough."

So there it is: a little bit of optimism for professional hockey, and all the lockout producers, cerebral investigations and fears of franchises failing south of the border. And for a change, the goodness originates in Canada—the land that, until recently, hockey seemed to have forgotten. As the season wound down, all six Canadian NHL teams were in playoff contention, with only the Edmonton Oilers left to clinch a spot heading into the final couple of games. The last time all the Canadian teams made the post-season was 1985-86, when Montreal



beat Calgary in the Stanley Cup final, marking the height of an era of Canadian-dominated teams in which the Oilers won the Cup five times, Montreal once and Calgary once.

After that, the cold embrace of high player salaries and a sagging league took over. Montreal's 1993 Cup victory was the last won by a Canadian team, after which they and the former powerhouses of Edmonton and Calgary were reduced to middling

clacking by losing to victory after a regular tie with the Boston Bruins. The points guaranteed the Canadians a playoff berth for just the second time in six seasons. But when the Bruins won the game on overtime, a shocked Quesnelien forced to explain. "I didn't want to be in the position where we were in the last week of the season and we were still looking for that last point."

Nowhere is the Canadian success story

than teams in, but by the idea that a Canadian team can make a run this year? "Sure, he points out, is tough and recently stacked with blue-chip veterans, Ottawa's success among the league's most talented teams, Montreal enjoys the brilliant goal-scoring of José Théodore, and Vancouver appears to have shaken off a brief malaise wrought by the Bertuzzi incident. So right is the case that, when Hockey Night pro-



For another five
left, the post-
season brought
to finally over. The
Flames looked to
the playoffs in
1996, and that was
the last in 1996,
when Lanny
McDonald was
still playing (right,
the Oilers' backup
for the last six
on Théodore City).



powers, at best. Even the Ottawa Senators—a team swimming in young talent for the last five seasons—have been unable to reach the first in recent years, as have the Toronto Maple Leafs, the country's only deep-pocketed, top-finishing team.

Which helps explain the slightly odd feeling pervading the nation's NHL towns, as players and fans bemoan for more than the usual level of post-season drama. With a few boxes of playoff tickets going on sale in Vancouver, fans paid aside the stilling attack by Canucks forward Todd Bertuzzi on Steve Moore of the Colorado Avalanche, flying sports mill athletes with excited speculation about line combinations, potential opponents and the length of their starstruck goaltender, Dan Cloutier. In Ottawa, city council passed a unique in-the-city resolution "honoring" Maple Leafs regulars from the Senators' home arena, the Corel Centre, on pre-arrival attack on the league's most powerful known as the "Ladies Night," which involves every city in Canada where Toronto happens to be playing.

In Montreal, Canadian defenceman Stéphane Quesselle elected a round of media

more welcome—or more challenging—than at Hockey Night in Canada, where CBC producers spent the last days of the season during broadcast hours, looking for hot and rewarding flights in anticipation of a seventh opening playoff round. Just during the show's exclusive broadcast, expected to have as many as 120 people on staff during the conference quarter-finals, and to add some less familiar faces to the show's well-known cast: Dean Brown, the radio voice of the Ottawa Senators, was on tap to fill in should Hockey Night need an extra play-by-play man. John Davidson, the polished columnist who's currently co-owning the New York Rangers, became available after that season finished out of the playoffs. And if needed, the show could call on former NHL goaltender Brian Hayward, now a contract issuer covering the Anaheim Mighty Ducks.

More fun, says Dorland, has been sitting through the outcries for a potential Cup winner—and the tantalizing possibility of the trophy coming home. "We're really excited," he says, "not only because we think it'll be a great first round, with all the Cana-

dian teams in, but by the idea that a Canadian team can make a run this year." However, he points out, is tough and recently stacked with blue-chip veterans, Ottawa's success among the league's most talented teams, Montreal enjoys the brilliant goal-scoring of José Théodore, and Vancouver appears to have shaken off a brief malaise wrought by the Bertuzzi incident. So right is the case that, when Hockey Night pro-

ducers are out to plan a segment introducing a favourite, they were more or less stuck for an answer. "That," says Dorland, "is terrible." On that, he'll go no argument from Gauthier, whose speedy, physically punishing team shouldn't be discounted from the list of dark horses. Call it insurance, or the confidence that stems on the success. But the Flames, once regarded as pariahs by Western Conference rivals, have thrived under the old-time coaching style of Darryl Sutter and the trust of one of its long-suffering staff, Jacques Lefevre. "They've got a different attitude surrounding the team now," he says. "And the best reward the city is just watching." As the season came to a close, Gauthier's goodwill rounded even to the Flames' long-standing 80th anniversary, the Edmonton Oilers, in the hope of creating a full slate of Canadian teams in the playoffs. "Because the team won the hockey championship the Cup, you lose that sense of belonging and pride," he says. "Hockey's always been our thing as Canadians. It's our passion. It's our pride. It's our game—there's just no other way to put it."

CHARLIE GILLIS/STANLEY CUP

IN DEFENCE OF THE MASTERS

Mike Weir beat the odds once. Why not twice?

IT WAS NEARLY MIDNIGHT when Mike Weir drove out the gates of Augusta National Golf Club last April 13. After the ornate dinner and dinner with everyone in the clubhouse clubhouse, family and friends had decided to move the party back to the house they'd rented as soon as they could. But Weir and his wife Krisa took off by themselves for awhile. They were still in the mood to celebrate, but they hadn't had a minute alone since he'd tapped in to win the Masters, and they had some stories to blow off privately.

They drove through the darkened city, laughing and talking about what had happened. Winning the Masters had always been his dream, but there'd been plenty of times, especially

when he played fringe tours for peanuts and she waited, when the dream seemed pretty remote. Maybe he was, wearing a new green jacket, a 41 regular with the famous Augusta National crest on the left breast pocket. "It was just the two of us, and we were having a good laugh," Weir recalls. "We rolled down the windows and started yelling stuff." What sort of stuff? "I don't remember," he says. "Well, I do, but I don't want to say. We were just really, really happy."

There aren't many things Canadian golf fans don't know about Weir's historic Sunday at Augusta National.

The drama didn't have become the history of his wedge shot on 15 that set up a crucial birdie, the line of the very recent first putt on 18 that forced the playoff, everything. And with this year's event beginning on April 6, we're bound to hear a litany of the Masters as a huge drive in Canada—it's the season's first major championship, the tournament course is a mix of semi-bladed greens and the event coincides with the beginning of a new season in the world's most golf mad nation. The first-round coverage in 2003 attracted more than 1.5 million viewers here.

It's been a wild ride for the man from Bligh's Grove, Ont. The night after the Masters win, a waitress called at the Air Canada Centre for a Toronto-Philadelphia playoff

game gave him a thunderous standing ovation. He got a rock star reception from the galleries at the 1993 Bell Canadian Open in Hamilton last September. Back at the scene of his greatest triumph, he's the focus for legions of Canadian duflin. There are dozens of Americans in the field, and handfuls of Aussies, South Africans, Brits, Japanese and Spaniards, but Weir will beat his nation's rival expectations alone. Good thing he's used to it. "Maybe when I was younger, I felt it was a bit of a burden," he says. "But now I think it just feels very supportive."

Weir has come, done it all the course as well, at press conferences and at best of the past champions' dinner on April 6. With the help of Sami, his caddy, Master Madson, an old pal, Weir chose an all-Canadian-independence menu that includes lobster and beef carpaccio, asparagus salad, roasted rack of venison with rosemary and cherry and parmesan cornmeal and wild berry reduction for dessert, accompanied by Ossington wines and the pair can't bear it any more.

Arnold Palmer's usual diet, but it's a big step up from the cheeseburgers and apple slices that Tiger Woods served in 1997. "I will definitely try to eat and be happy to do it," just driving him. Crutcher told The Golf Channel. "You're looking forward to this?"

Only Jack Nicklaus (1963-64), Nick Faldo

(1989-90) and Woods (2000-02) have ever won back-to-back since the tournament was first contested in 1934. So it's not surprising that offshore bookmakers rate Weir the odds-on favorite at Augusta, preferring the chances of Woods, Ernie Els, David Love III, Phil Mickelson and Vijay Singh—long list on what, after several continents, is a very long golf course. Some other prognosticators give Weir little chance at all: one prominent publication ranked him 15th on the PGA Tour going into 2004. "People just say what they want to say, I guess," Weir says. But it's an obvious slight. Seventy-eight in the world rankings, seventh on the PGA Tour money list, and he has already won a creditably defended one of his 2003 titles, capturing the Nissan Open in February.

Maybe it's the understated personality and slight stature. Except by his play, Weir doesn't attract attention to himself. He

really is the guy you see on TV even, temperate and modest, ideal traits in a game that demands controlled emotions and bombast even on post-mortem. U.S. media outlets have paid more attention since his Masters win, coating a basically private man to become a megaphone figure. He's five feet from the center, but you sense that he's working at it. "For me, it's not a natural thing," Weir says of celebrity.

Distraction is the lightning rod that have saved him from the pitfalls of some first-time winners of major golf championships. Intimidated with big money offers, they add endorsement commitments and excess tournaments to their schedules, and their game suffers. But even before his Masters victory, Weir and agent Dan Cronin had mapped out a strategy just in case he won a major. As a result, Weir has since signed only one more sponsorship deal and plays out more

When he won his second straight Nissan Open title, Weir's sponsors began to look up.

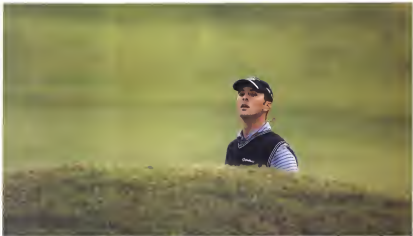
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unannounced events a year. "He has a lot on his plate," Cronin says. "But it's doable." The proof? Weir said for good at the U.S. Open and, even risk at the PGA, and placed 20th at the British Open, giving him the best overall record in 2003's majors, and he has a win and two other top 10s this year.

Weir covers his personal time, and he's taken some heat for it. He spent more time last December when he was 15 available for comment after being named Canadian athlete of the year, ahead of Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Eric Gagne. Weir was on holiday at his cabin in Sandance, Utah, with three and two daughters, his management firm issued a written statement. Cronin didn't want to blame and should have arranged a teleconference, given the significance of the

event. But the decision for declining comments from Weir "I knew up me as a man," he says, unapologetic. "I've said it please everyone."

In 1995, heading up an Austin Tour event at Lakota, the odds Weir was taking to the golf course broke down and he had to lay his bag through a muddy stream before finding a hole the size of the way. He shot a career 88, with a career-over-three birdies, he says, "I had a tough time thinking I would win the Masters." Now, even though the odds are against him, it would be foolhardy to say he couldn't win again. Weir's greatest strengths are his focus, his ability to learn from past experiences and his persistence. "Until you do it, you're never sure if you can handle that type of pressure," he says. "So when I win another tournament again, I know I can." You'll notice he said "when," not "if."

arnold@comcast.net



Only Michael Ellis and Woods looked like they were in a battle to back at Augusta

THE INCOME TRAP

Staying home with the kids can prove costly at tax time. Who's to blame?

NANCY MADONIK is looking through her income tax return for 2002, and notes she deducted the total \$14,000 allowed that year for child care for her two children. In the return she's about to file for 2003, she can't make a similar deduction, and neither can her husband Allan, even though the family's child-care expenses haven't changed. "Oh my God—now I'm feeling sick," she says, closing the yellow file folder on the table in front of her. "I can waste off each year this year."

The Madoniks are caught in a well-known tax trap. Nancy Madonik left a full-time job in mid-2002 to spend more time at home with her two children, now aged 4½ and 1½, and is establishing a business she can run from her north Toronto home. Since then, her money goes to her husband, Allan, who has a running vehicle sales business that has changed from one year to the next. And because Allan, also 36, is the only family member officially working, he can't claim the tax-saver's salary, because Nancy, as first Ottawa concerned, isn't in the labor force. Madonik says the mortgage, basic living expenses, a private preschool school for the children and a nanny eat up all of Allan's income, and she's frustrated they can't make the same child-care deduction as a year ago. "Not only am I not my salary, but we are not that benefit," she says. It adds to the pressure to make her company succeed. "This is why my business really needs to provide us not just a decent income, but enough that I can bring those terrible benefits back. I can't believe I need to avoid various money."

Canada's tax laws allow child-care deductions only if both partners are gainfully employed, a rule financial planner Peter Merrick calls a penalty. "The government doesn't like anything to promote families," says Merrick, who runs his own business. "It has always been something that bothers me." Merrick, a father of three



Madonik found out the hard way that she can no longer claim child care.

FILING FOUL-UPS

1. MISSING THE APRIL 30 DEADLINE. Not a good idea. You've automatically dropped five per cent of the tax owing, plus another one per cent for each subsequent month you're late filing. "If people ignore us, we will send reminders, make phone calls and send letters, but we have to take legal action," says Dennis Lalonde, a Canada Revenue Agency spokesperson.

2. FAILING TO POOL DEDUCTIONS. Take charitable donations: you get a 15 per cent credit on the first \$200 donated, but 29 per cent on amounts above that. So a husband and wife may be wise to group their donations to reach the higher threshold. Similar math applies to medical costs: you can only claim the portion of expenses that exceeds three per cent of your net income or \$1,295, whichever is less. A couple can pool expenses to exceed that minimum, then have the spouse with the lower income claim the expense to get the best break.

3. FORGETTING DEDUCTIONS. Some of the most commonly missed claims: moving expenses after relocating for work; credits for post-secondary tuition fees; and for each month of attendance, and a credit for supporting a dependent relative.

4. NOT OFFSETTING CAPITAL GAINS WITH LOSSES. Maybe the bull run of the late 1990s just seems so long ago, but many

people fail to offset the capital gains they earned on investments during those good times with the recent losses as a result of the market dip. Losses can be carried forward for seven years and back for one year.

5. FORGETTING TO ACCOUNT FOR INTEREST AND DIVIDENDS. Financial institutions report those payments to the CRA, so don't try to hide them. And failing to note there is one of the bigger red flags for the taxman looking for audit targets.

6. FAILING TO CLAIM EXPENSES. Two common ones people forget are safety deposit box fees and carrying charges and interest on loans used to purchase investments.

7. IGNORING A CHILD'S TUITION TRANSFER. Since students have little or no income, they often can't make use of their full tuition credit. But that credit (up to \$5,000) can be transferred to parents, grandparents or spouses to lower their taxable income.

8. BAD ARITHMETIC. This is the biggest blunder the CRA encounters. Of the 24 million returns filed in 2003, 94 million were on paper, and poor math skills were widely on display. As Lalonde puts it, "It can be very disappointing to those who thought they were getting a refund to find out they're not because they subtracted instead of added."

—KIM HETTINGER

whose wife stays home to take care of their kids, has organized her work life to avoid the scenario the Madoniks are in. Because Merrick, 35, is self-employed, not only can he claim more work-related deductions than Allan Madonik, he can also split his income with his wife, Nancy, paying her a portion for administrative work. The income-splitting in turn allows her to claim child-care costs for their three young children. Merrick, who admits his "very opinionated and about this subject," is incensed this families such as the Madoniks can't work the system the same way. "There are major flaws that are systemic—it frustrates me as a financial planner," Merrick says. "I can't put a price on having one parent stay home. But the tax system makes it disadvantageous to have children."

The Fraser Institute, a conservative, Vancouver-based think tank, calls the tax differential a "tax wedge to favour tax payers." After the 1990s TV family, the Clarevies, Nick Wildman, an insurance executive, has created a hypothetical family of four with a total annual income of \$80,000, which in one scenario is divided

equally between the parents, James and Joan. In the second scenario, James quits the entire career, and the family ends up paying almost \$5,000 more in taxes. The explanation is Canada's progressive tax system, which costs big earners more heavily than low-income earners—and the fact that a two-parent family with just one income is not allowed a claim deduction. "Our tax system," Wildman says, "is clearly biased toward dual-income families and against single-income families."

Not exactly, says analyst Pierre Desjardis. "That's an unrealistic interpretation of the way the world works," says Desjardis, who's worked as a staff economist for major Canadian corporations including the Canada Imperial Bank of Commerce, and who now runs an independent firm, People Partners Consulting in Seattle, B.C. By far, most married Canadians with children are working. Using Statistics Canada data, he says 63 per cent of married couples with children have two income earners in the family. As well, individuals rely very rarely (up to an \$80,000 income from a \$40,000 one). "That's really not representative of the real world," Desjardis says. A second-income earner usually adds income, he points out, rather than taking it away from the first income earner.

Canada's tax system doesn't discriminate against the traditional single-income family, says federal Finance Department spokeswoman Adrienne Heide. But it is correct, she says, that at a given level of income, a one-income couple will pay more than a two-income couple, all the being equal. This follows both from Canada's progressive tax rate structure and individual-based taxation, which means that the lower-earning spouse isn't penalized by being taxed at a rate based on the family's overall higher income. "Family-based taxation would result in a tax on marriage and common-law relationships," Heide says.

Canada's system matters precisely that benefit single-income couples, such as the ability to contribute to a spousal RRSP or to pool medical and charitable deductions, which can be claimed by the main income-earning spouse. Even though a two-career family pays less income tax, it doesn't follow that this family is better off than a single-income family. The two-income family often has less disposable income because it incurs higher work-related expenses,

“Even though a two-income family pays less tax, it doesn't always follow that it's better off financially.”



WHY GAS WILL COST MORE

The era of cheap oil is over—but there is no pricing conspiracy

AS U.S. PRICES for oil and natural gas soar, the widespread response is to blame OPEC and "Big Oil," a term these days that includes The Company the Democrats and Media Men Love to Hate—Halliburton. OPEC has for years been a bone for mere Americans and a blessing for cartomaniacs. Whenever gasoline prices jump, newspapers publish cartoons of fat Arabs laughing about their loot.

What infuriates Americans is they feel their SUVs at near record prices at that OPEC announced plans to reduce production in April Fools' Day, even though oil prices were

cratering at around US\$14 a barrel. And isn't OPEC run by the Saudis, who Americans feel are using their monopoly position to fleece us? And isn't OPEC a cartel? And isn't it a cartel?

Besides, for years OPEC promised to try to keep oil prices in the US\$12 to US\$18 a barrel range, so its members should be blaming production, not carting it. Well, Saudi Arabia has an OPEC fairy, because for nearly three years its continuous oil price forecasts have been for US\$16 a barrel or less. Meanwhile, recently, such sustained error has not led to demands that all these cartomaniacs and seersayers should be sacked. Instead, people seem to assume that if it weren't for a general oil conspiracy, WMD is more likely and Iraq and Baghdad would have been right. Right? Actually, their jobs apparently can't be afforded in Iraq where they live off all these high oil prices.

The summer driving season for Americans begins on the Memorial Day weekend at the end of May if gasoline prices still then in the US\$17 to US\$22 per gallon range, and they're even higher, then will, inevitably, be millions of previously pleased Americans—driving Democrats, who will, perhaps correctly, conclude that paying heavily at the pump is worth it, if it means getting rid of George W. Bush. The President and his vice-president, Dick Cheney, have been so thoroughly denigrated by Democratic politicians and their media hordes as to co-conspirators with OPEC and Big Oil that it's hard to imagine an American sense of fair play coming to their rescue.

The reality of what determines oil pricing is, of course, more complex. Serious oil is partly in poverty in countries despite of their ample oil facts.

First, there's no longer any meaningful OPEC overcapacity. In fact, just about back to pre-war levels, despite serious attacks, a fact for which Halliburton's record deserves praise. (As to whether they overcharged for such an impressive performance, that's up to Pentagon auditors.)

In fact, nearly all OPEC members are producing above their quotas, and most members are scrambling to make up for years of underinvestment in their state-owned oil fields. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could, in theory, produce an extra 2.5 to three million barrels a

day, guarantee a near-permanent global oil shortage within five years.

Second, Americans don't run their cars on crude oil, but gasoline. The refining is dirty in a respect. When oil was cheap, Washington and the state environmental administration set rules for the composition of what could be sold at the pumps. These are now at least a dozen differing regional grades of gasoline, so when a refinery in one area breaks down, oil companies can't simply ship in a different grade of diesel from somewhere else. The costs of converting old refineries to meet the new rules are staggering, and the legal liability for failing to deliver the right mix is so daunting, that small refiners have been closing down.

Only Big Oil can afford to play in these leagues, and even recently the profits from refining and marketing were so low that the majors chose to deploy their funds in finding oil and gas, not building new refineries. (And, as you might expect, there's almost nowhere that communities will allow you to build such costly, noisy and unsightly operations, with their attendant pipelines, barges and endless fleets of trucks.)

Finally, Big Oil is a contributor to the problem, but not because it's refusing to drive up prices. The majors have collectively failed to discover sufficient oil reserves to replace their production in the past five years. Royal Dutch/Shell has been a particular disaster, overstating its reserves by more than three billion barrels. Production in the big, new oil fields they developed in the '70s and '80s has peaked, and the new "tougher" fields they're developing are far more expensive to develop and produce.

The era of cheap oil is over. Learn to live with that—both in your driving and in your investing. ☐

Donald Cose is chairman of Harris Investment Management in Chicago and of Toronto-based JSCS Hedged Investments. donald@harrisinvest.com



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ENTER THE DRAGON

As the Asian giant opens for business, Canada in particular is feeling the impact, writes JOEL BAGLOLE

China is moving away from a state-planned economy at breakneck speed. In just 25 years, rapid industrialization and cheap labor costs have transformed the country from a Communist agrarian nation of peasant farmers to what economists now call "the world's factory floor." The effect on the global economy has been profound—and is far from over. China, which joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, must lower its protectionist tariffs on everything from cars to beef and open completely to foreign competition by 2007. As Maclean's correspondent Joel Baglole notes, few countries are likely to feel the impact of this new world order as strongly as Canada. His report:

WHEN EVE YANG was considering where to obtain a master's of business administration degree, she applied to some of the world's top universities. The Beijing resident was accepted at Columbia University in New York City and the University of California, Berkeley. Yang, who worked in marketing at an information technology company, chose McGill University in Montreal, where she enrolled last fall. "I wanted the McGill brand name on my résumé," the 29-year-old explains. "I felt that having a degree from this school would provide me with the best opportunities." Her choice was also influenced, she says, by the positive image Canada has in China. "We're told stories of Americans travelling around carrying Canadian flags on their flags," Yang adds. "To us it says let people say that proves Canada is a desirable place."

Yang is one of 28,000 Chinese who hold a permit to study at a university or college in Canada. The Chinese, in fact, comprise the largest group of foreign students studying in Canada. The open cross can leave a lasting impression. Spence Lee earned a law degree from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in 1998. After graduation, he returned to Hong Kong and established his own law practice. He also co-founded a Chinese-Canadian Association to foster ties between the two countries. "The years I spent in Canada were my formative years," he says. "How could I forget?"

The ties between the two countries extend well beyond the educational. Between 1997 and 2002, travel from mainland China increased by an average 79 per cent a year, to 215,600. The 35,000 Chinese who move to Canada each year account for 16 per cent of new immigrants, the single largest group. Then there are the economic bonds. China is now Canada's third largest trading partner, after the U.S. and Japan. And analysts say the trade relationship can only grow as Beijing steadily lessens its grip on the economy.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$5 BILLION
Value of Canadian goods exported to China in 2002

\$19 BILLION
Value of imports from China

100
Number of cities in China with more than one million people

3
Number in Canada



Joseph Cason, Canada's ambassador to China, believes the impact of China on Canada will equal the impact of the 1988 Free Trade Agreement. "Every Canadian company, no matter how large, needs a China strategy," Cason says. "And every Canadian citizen needs to be aware of what's happening in China. There's no hiding from China."

TODAY in China there are 552 million subscribers to regular telephones and cellphones, 112 million of them signed up in the last year. And while that makes China the world's biggest telecommunications market, more than half of the nation's 1.3 billion citizens

still don't have a phone. And only 80 million use the Internet, according to China's Ministry of Industry. But with the country quickly industrializing, the central government in Beijing is pushing to expand its communications infrastructure, particularly in rural areas. Bigger Netcom Networks Corp. of Hangzhou, One Whatever problems it's facing in the West dealing with the aftermath of the high-tech bubble bursting, are driving in China's US\$4.5 billion and growing telecommunications market.

Netcom declines to provide a breakdown of the nation's generates in China, but its activities are coactive. It is selling networks

A.T. & T. helps push
strata for car
batteries are signs
of the growing
market economy

and power and telephone equipment to China's biggest telecommunications companies, including China Telecom, China Mobile and China Unicom. It has helped build wireless networks in 17 of China's 31 jurisdictions. In four manufacturing plants that plants to other Netcom operations around the world. Work done at its two research and development centres is tightly coordinated with Netcom's main R&D centre in Ottawa. "China is an important and growing market," says Robert Mao, chief executive of Netcom Networks China. "Its strategic importance to us can't be overstated."

The company, not surprisingly, has announced plans to invest a further US\$100 million in the country by 2006. And Netcom is not alone in its charge into China. Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. builds buses and subways systems, while Toronto-based Celestis Inc. makes computer circuit boards. In all, some 400 Canadian companies have established a permanent presence. According to

the Canadian embassy in Beijing, that's more than double the number from just a few years ago. Canadian foreign direct investment in China has grown even more dramatically. Individuals and businesses had funneled \$16.7 million into China by 2002, a 1,450 per cent increase from the \$45 million that Canadians had invested in 1992.

Canadian jobs have followed. Part of the equation is low labour costs. The average Canadian worker, for example, can earn \$24,800 a year, and overtime pay, the average Chinese worker earns less than the equivalent of \$3,000 a year (Chinese are considered wealthy if they earn \$7,000 or more annually). "Developed countries like Canada just can't compete on price with China," says Dong Tao, regional chief economist for Asia at investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston LLC in Hong Kong. "The competition with China, even Mexico, looks expensive."

This trend to encourage will continue to excite observers. "You gain from now, I would imagine that every Canadian manufacturer in every sector has managed to survive will be doing some or all of their manufacturing in China," says Anthony Burger, Canada's central general in Hong Kong. Burger and others say the challenge for Canada will be to move away from low-skilled labour jobs and concentrate on higher-skilled, value-added work. And out-



Foreign companies are building plants in China to satisfy the demand for cellphones and cars.

source isn't all bad. China's factories work round the clock churning out everything from baseball bats to toothbrushes to TV and DVD players for shipment around the globe. The world's most prized for Canadian consumers.

China's cheap labour appeal, of course, is more than just manufacturers. Business executives say they expect to see companies move call centres, payroll departments, data processing, even technical support operations to China. Some Canadian firms are already there, winning government contracts or selling financial services. Toronto-based landscape company Hardscaping Enterprises Inc., for one, has been awarded a \$50-million government contract to prepare part of the grounds for the 2008 Summer Olympics in

also recommends that companies start small and look to break into a specific city or region rather than entering China with a national strategy. That's because most of China's economy is regional, with many trade relationships between provinces.

While the marketing proscares one set of challenges, China's regulatory framework offers another. Companies need to be aware, Parnes says, that China's legal system is still being developed. "A lot of foreign companies spend hours with their lawyers building protection clauses into contracts that, at the end of the day, aren't enforceable," he says. As well, copyright and patent enforcement is still weak, he adds—serious cause for concern. That's China is one of the world's biggest counterfeit markets. The lack of legal recourse when they go wrong means contracts don't mean the same thing as in Canada. "It's not in China is not an official, fixed document," Parnes says. "It's more of a road map to provide guidance." J.B.

Beijing. And Manulife Financial Corp. has 3,800 insurance agents crisscrossing the country trying to sell life insurance policies to the Chinese. With offices in Shanghai and the southern city of Guangzhou, the company has just been granted a government licence to open a third office in Beijing this spring. "China is the world's largest unopened insurance market," says Victor Ago, general manager for Asia at Manulife in Hong Kong. "If you're in the insurance business, China's where you want to be."

WITH THE WTO's 2007 deadline looming, China's ongoing its reform efforts are also overdue. According to official estimates, the economy grew by 9.1 per cent last year. Its gross domestic product was US\$3.4 trillion, making it the world's sixth largest economy, and at least one projection is overtaking the U.S. as the biggest by 2050. China's already the largest producer of steel, textiles and clothing. It's the second-largest manufacturer of the world's oil products and the world's largest steel producer. China's steel industry is second in the world, and last but not least it's the world's third country, after Russia and the U.S., to launch a man into space.

"China has done a 25-year work that took several American 300 years to accomplish," says Gang Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Hong Kong. "It's amazing." Credit Suisse's Tao is equally effusive. "China is moving faster than any country in this 20th-century history."

Such rapid growth, though, comes at a price. China's power supply is coming up short. Ruling blackouts have forced such foreign manufacturers as Coca-Cola and Volkswagen to scale back or temporarily shut down. Coal-fired power plants are China's major source of electricity and the government now says it needs to build 100 more over the next three years just to meet the current coal-based demand.

By far, the largest and most controversial self-energy project is the Three Gorges Dam, a 2632-billion hydroelectric project on the Yangtze River south-central China. It was completed in 2009, the 68-story behemoth will generate as much energy as 25 CANDU nuclear power plants. Even so, critics deem the dam—and the resulting 600 km long reservoir—more work all the better's coming. Currently, they say, the 1.3 million people, many of whom



China's major source of electricity is coal-fired power plants like this one in Hubei Province.

present farmers, the Chinese government has finally adopted from the west to date. Environmentalists, the world over have also not denied the project, saying it will dig the river with silt, threaten rare fish and dolphins, pollute rivers and change global water patterns. Relying on clean air such criticism.

55
Percentage of the world's current output used in China in 2003

\$410 MILLION
Amount being spent on track and related facilities so Shanghai can host China's first Formula One event in September

8,000
Number of officials China's state media accused of absconding with government funds in the first half of 2003

For Beijing trying to come to terms with China's political climate, that perspective was a relief. It's a fact of life, not a mystery that China operates as an authoritarian nation. It may be opening its borders, but it's one of the world's most authoritarian. And it's a country where politicians and business executives are accused of wrongdoing on a daily basis. Premier Chen Ke, a vice chairman of the national parliament, was arrested in 2000 over a US\$5 million bribery scandal. It's the highest-ranking of officials to be put on trial for corruption. So when government officials told a room full of reporters that former chief of China's private Wang Ruoshan had "disappeared" following an embezzlement scandal, they feared the worst. In the end, Ruoshan was sentenced to 12 years in prison—a relative slap on the wrist.

YET CHINA represents a huge opportunity for Canada. It's all about resources, the Asian giant has massive quantities of some or doesn't have them in western countries. And it's a country with enormous industrial demand and China has a recently reasonable appetite for Canadian goods, timber, precious metals and oil and minerals.

Breco, Canada—the U.S. is running a trade deficit with China. In 2003, that number stood at \$14 billion. However, unlike their Washington counterparts, officials in Ottawa aren't very concerned. (The reason Canada enjoys a large overall trade surplus with the rest of the world, while the U.S. is running a hefty global trade deficit.) Still, according to Jim Saultwell, an economist with the Canadian Auto Workers, that deficit translates into approximately \$2,000 jobs lost to China. And the southern Ontario auto workers who job has been outsourced would be the only one to feel China's growing economic clout. Sooner or later, a Saultwell's former employer could move its facilities as demand from China drives world groups, or, worse case, in New Brunswick may share the beach on with Chinese tourism. This made in China label. Canadians see on so many of their products with just part of the story. J.B.

SOMETIMES ONLY FOOLS RUSH IN

Where savvy businesses take a slow and cautious approach

DOING BUSINESS IN CHINA isn't for the faint of heart. Corporate business entry is slow, regulations are laborious and evolving, and government officials are known to interfere with foreign firms. But with a population of 1.3 billion, China is nevertheless an incredible lure to companies hoping to cash in on its increasingly consumer-driven marketplace.

Wayne Farmer has seen plenty of foreign companies get burned in the attempt. The former Ottawa political assistant is managing director of telecoms Capital Advisors, sitting Hong Kong-based boutique private equity firm that helps individuals and companies raise money to do business in China. He cites the experience of two U.S. multinationals as a cautionary tale: Hammer Roads Corp., the Austin, Texas-based packaged

meat producer best known for making Spam, built a state-of-the-art factory in Shanghai. It then discovered that few Chinese were willing to pay a premium for a brand they didn't know and breaking into the market was slower than expected. On the other hand, Pillsbury Co. found that few Chinese consumers even knew, meaning there would be a limited market for its instant-take products such as crescent rolls and burritos. So in 1997 Pillsbury bought into Chinese dumpling manufacturer Wanda Food and today is one of the top food brands in China.

The lesson? Companies should be prepared to adapt to the market. And despite China's consumer revolution, many global brands remain unknown to the burgeoning middle class. "Companies have to have patience," Farmer says, "and look for their brand from the grassroots." ■



Photo Essay | BY JONATHAN TORGOVNIK

BOLLYWOOD DREAMS

A photographer pays homage to the world's largest film industry

THE INDIAN movie industry, catering to the billion-strong star-studded Indian population, is the world's largest, producing some 800 films annually. It's now the subject of a book, *Bollywood Dreams*, and a related collection of postcards. The behind-the-scenes selection of photos by New York City-based photographer Jonathan Torgovnik pays homage to Bollywood's stars, filmmakers, technicians and, of course, the audience that keeps the cinematic business thriving along. *Bollywood* presents a sample of Torgovnik's work, excerpted from "*Bollywood Dreams Postcards*," published by Phaidon Press (2004), \$29.95 (for more information, www.phaidon.com). **EW**





HEAVEN AND EARTH

Some things in Malaysia are familiar, but with a twist, writes STEVE BURGESS

WHILE BUYING a bottle of the stuff normally, I discovered that the Malay word for "water" sounds like "ur". A little confusing, but now I'm bag. It'll have some extra yelling. "Turbi!" maybe I should run for the fire escape.

Georgetown, on the Malaysian island of Penang, has a lot of that sort of thing. The English name reflects Georgetown's history, as do the many British colonial structures around town. But the city's present also has a different look—a Muslim Malay majority living peacefully side by side with large Chinese and Indian populations.

And this. Lots of them, poking through the garbage with their codranch buddies late at night. It was a bit disconcerting on my first

walkabout after arriving from Bangkok, close to midnight. Bangkok had occasionally smelled terrible, but the only reaches there were fried and offered for sale on pushcarts as local delicacies (try the silkworms instead—crunchy outside, creamy inside). You got the impression nothing much could survive in the heart of Bangkok anyway. But here, I suppose the climate is healthier for small creatures. A good sign, perhaps.

Also along the night is were mosquitoes, who seemed in their afflictions to give me directions back to my hotel (no doubt they acquire used to helping me sensibly swing west). Halfway down the block a group of Muslims men lounged in front of their mosque, seemingly unperturbed by their

neighbors. Thirty years after religious riots rocked the country, Malaysia prides itself as an successful blending of cultures. Seemed to be working pretty well on my street.

They held an election in Malaysia during my stay. Familiar, but with a twist. "Pranayam?" Check. From the sky? No. "Oleone?" No. "Jungle?" No. "George?" No. "Wah," the pig is a little higher here. Islamic opposition politician Nik Aziz Nik Mat promised that his supporters would get tickets to heaven. Now Democrats may secretly believe that, but they need to keep it to themselves.

Former Malaysia PM Mahathir Mohamad tweaked Nik Aziz, 72, by asking when he planned to go up and check whether these tickets were honored at the gate. But



Bahar's coalition was helped through the opposition's grand ticket to paradise.

Mahathir made his own special ticket state races two weeks before stepping down when he opened an international conference last October by talking about Jewish world domination. He was replaced as leader of the Barisan Nasional coalition by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, a moderate who has pledged to clean up corruption. Badawi's March 21 election victory was a foregone conclusion, and even if you hadn't been told so by the news it would be evident by poking up newspaper. One story in the New Straits Times—a news story, not—gave the flavor of local coverage. "The Barisan Nasional started singing yesterday a 60-second television commercial which those who have seen describe as one of the most touching political advertisements. One senior editor who saw the clip said, 'It felt like standing up and shouting the PM.' A minister who saw the advertisement together with his wife cried."

Somewhere, Edward R. Murrow was crying with him. But in it turned out, the election was a landslide for the Barisan Nasional, which also won control of 11 of the 12 state governments in a stroke. Clearly people still read the paper.

Elections are breaking out all over Southeast Asia, and they often look like far-horizon events of our time affairs. Bangkok's race for governor features a personal club owner

was a candidate for the Barisan Nasional, which also won control of 11 of the 12 state governments in a stroke. Clearly people still read the paper.

After some difficulty—I was shanghaied into the wrong restaurant by one guy who said, "Myopia Road? Yes you guy, come on," only to discover what was in the West would call a client was released Indian buffet—I located Nyonya Baba Centre on Nagore Road. Proprietor Saw Keng Choo was delighted to explain the intricacies of Nyonya cuisine to me while offering up dishes such as pig trotter (ear-fried, shredded noggies in crisp, deep-fried egg), very light and thick, and a lovely fish dish called omelette. From the kitchen the producer on occasion Nyonya ingredients, the well-grown flower petals and bulb with an unusual like ginger-scented as spray.

Later, while I was drinking "white coffee"—coffee so capricious—in a covered open air, the barman opened up as if they were at the drinks. I'm drinking the street after a day of blue-furnace heat. So what's a few rats?

work in Canada—your need at least a full-size pig to make an advertising contract.

In the Philippines, voters may be slow learners—they've got themselves another pretty-boy actor running for president. Misamis was Fernando Poe Jr. will have off with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in May. Like California voters, the 70-year-old has decided an actor before—1995 winner Joseph Estrada, who turned out to be a blarney, if by that you mean Groucho. Estrada came landed a place in the Democracy Hall of Fame with the campaign line "You're not intelligent people as students—newly not someone like yourselves!" The "You're not stupid" pitch worked (and come to think of it, may have inspired Bush). Unfortunately Estrada was thrown out of office for corruption. Can't say they weren't warned.

Malaysia's election was a fairly traditional affair by comparison, reflecting a growing Malaysian self-image as a sort of Asian Switzerland where peoples cannot be peace. One of the handful of that conscience has been Nyonya Baba, a culture that arose from the intermarriage of Malays and Chinese.

Nyonya cuisine is a major attraction of Georgetown, and one day I found a bicycle-rental next to an inch of a famous local restaurant. Being pedaled slowly through traffic by a thin old man may be a boon to the local economy and a score for the old guy personally. But hanging along just the pedestrians, I had at 12 just been crowned Miss Colonial Oppression 2004.

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So what's a few rats?



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BATHROOM STOPS, ice-cream stops, stretch-your-legs stops, end-the-back-seat-bloking stops. Car holidays with children can be a challenge, to say the least. But they can also be a whole lot of fun—an opportunity for shared experiences that create lasting memories, and for really bonding as a family without the distractions of work, school, extracurricular activities and TV. *Maxim's* has selected five so-called destinations for family vacations, all within a few hours' drive (as well as, in one case, ferry travel) of major centres. So, pack up the audio-books, the paper and markers, the DVDs (if you're one of those deluxe-car-travel families), and set out for adventure.

Search for New Brunswick's Roosts in the Atlantic National Park (page),
Dinosaur Provincial Park in Alberta, visits in Quebec's Charlevoix region

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/ANDREW COLEMAN; NEW BRUNSWICK: © TONY
BOURQUE/STOCK; ALBERTA: JEFFREY HARRISON/STOCK



Saltspring Island, B.C. | *Spindowns*

EVEN BY the unhurried standards of B.C.'s Gulf Islands, this car ferry's meandering route—scooped a listerich from Saltspring Island to wrap at Pender, Mayne and Galiano islands, before a final drop to the Bowen Strait—seems a bit of a waste. Still, it's a sorry fool who doesn't enjoy the passing parade of boats, wheeling birds and serene, scored beaches. Thursday dropped a banana pod of force whales off the ferry's portside, the one from three blowholes leaping impossibly long in the run. Such porpoise encounters aren't guaranteed, but a visit to Saltspring, the largest of the island chain, is surely worth out a septic or two.

With 14,000 residents and a heavy dependence on tourism, the island is loaded with amenities. Don't expect fast-food chains or go-kart tracks. Think instead a farmers' market, funky B&Bs and killer craft shops. Above every second home and farm seems to hang an art or a statue. Residents have fought to preserve the island's natural splendour, so it's little surprise that visitors are embraced with religious fervour. There's even an exceptionally maintained nine-hole golf course, Blackburn Meadows.

Ganges, the island's main village, has a wealth of shops, harbour-view restaurants and pubs. Its Market is the Park—with up to 150 stalls of locally produced, cured or grown goods—runs Saturdays from April to October. And spring, a performance and gallery space, is a keep the scene of local and imported talent. If art and theatre leave your kids rolling their eyes, there are more than 20 ocean beaches, though only five are prime for swimming and surfing. Ocean kayak rentals and lessons are available at Ganges and Fulford Harbour. Canyons at Raddle Provincial Park need only peek out their acorn for a sweet view of Swains Channel.

Sleeping is a quick paddle jump from Victoria and a 90-minute voyage from B.C.'s mainland—if you stay in a guesthouse. Ferry? Otherwise, it's the daily run and, with luck, a whale of a good time. **KIM WOODS**

WHERE TO STAY: Harbour House has killer ocean views and a restaurant. There's also the Seaside, a less-than-ideal guesthouse. **WHERE TO EAT:** Culinary Arts is Ganges' best harbour-side eat; great lunches, brunch and happy hour. **WHERE TO GO:** Saltspring is a lovely walk to the beach, a boat ride and a hike.

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The island offers art, culture, organic produce.



Best beaches | Paradise on the sands

Sandbanks Provincial Park is home to three of Ontario's prettiest, largest and sandiest beaches: Dufferin, Sandbanks and Owen Sound. It's not only great swimming, but wind-surfing, sailing and boating.

With its dramatic sunsets and spectacular water views, Long Beach in Pacific Rim National Park, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, is easily equaled by no other.

On the east side of Vancouver Island, Parksville and nearby Qualicum Beach have shallow and surprisingly warm water, which makes both popular family destinations.

Evoking images of Waikiki, Aulani and Aiea, the south end of the big island of Oahu, Hawaii, is a beautiful spot with shallow waters, making it ideal for children.

Less than two hours' drive northeast of Regina, the south end of the big island of Oahu, Hawaii, is a beautiful spot with shallow waters, making it ideal for children.

Known as the longest beach and often referred to as the best beach on the island, Seaside Beach, just east of Seaside, P.E.I., has beautiful white sand that squeaks when walked upon.

The largest of Kouchibouguac National Park, on the eastern coast of New Brunswick, features the warmest salt water north of Virginia.

Grand Beach Provincial Park, about 40 km northwest of Winnipeg, and on the southwestern shore of Lake Winnipeg, has grassy dunes as high as 10m and 3 km of silky white sands.

A 10-minute drive from either Calgary or Edmonton, the heart community of Sylvan Lake has one of the few large, easily accessible sandy beaches in Alberta.

With a large playground for kids and a lovely beach popular with young people, Devon Park in the heart of Kelowna, B.C., is among several great places for swimming on Okanagan Lake. **CYNTHIA REMONDO**

You can start with Mithras Bay, which, according to the tourism site, remains one island for every day of the year, only a few of which are inhabited. Take the \$5 ferry ride past the islands owned by the German multimillionaire, Hollywood producers and businessmen Johannes Wenz for more

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Discussion and future studies

Kingston, Ont. | Limestone reveries

SURE, KINGSTON has loads of impressive buildings from the 19th century, when the eastern Ontario city was a military and political powerhouse (it was capital of the Province of Canada from 1842 to 1863). But, for me, what's most remarkable about this lovely place is the abundance of humble limestone structures from two centuries ago. Strolling through town you might pass what's now an apartment first erected 190 years ago and featuring an archway for carriages. At the corner of Queen and Bager

streets, there's the striking cognate of an old, three-story edifice housing the tanning/waxing/main-care establishment known as L.A. Nails.

The way-on-the-eye gaze and buff of the limestone take you gently into the past. That combined with the grander links to Canadian history, and with the city's location at the juncture of the Rideau Canal and the St. Lawrence River with Lake Ontario, makes Kingston a wonderful history destination. There's who's-who-looking-Bellevue House, once home of Sir John A. Macdonald. There's Kingston City Hall, a superb example of 19th-century architecture, also

the site of a long-standing, three-days-a-week farmer's market.

The city also boasts six handsome-looking "Martello" towers—circular military structures. Two of them are within the battlements of Fort Henry National Historic Site, built by the British during the War of 1812, and one housing a museum of 19th-century military life (one of the city's numerous museums). Situated on a windswept hill overlooking the lake, the fort is a place where even non-history buffs engage in a dialogue with the past. During our visit, my husband and I found ourselves in deep conversation about conceivability, of all things. Our 11-year-old, meanwhile, wondered if one of the older persons in her life, granddad, had ever dwelled in the old fort. In late spring and summer, the fort hosts winter sports activities for all ages, including a kids' basic snow drill.

But the city of 147,000, about 2½ hours by car from Toronto to the west and Ottawa to the north, is also a springboard to every-wishes activities. There's the free ferry to cyclist-friendly Wolfe Island, and the ready access to the rest of the Thousand Islands. Kingston features superb conditions for abseiling, diving and sailing. And it's close to several provincial parks, including Sandbanks, with its fabulous beaches. **NARROW HUNTER**

WHERE TO STAY

For a big-name hotel, the Sheraton is on P.O. St. The President Club has studios of with its stunning room and outdoor hot tubs.

WHERE TO EAT

The venerable Club Regatta is a fine dining establishment, and the top-of-the-line restaurant, The Glenora, serves a fine lunch and dinner.

For more information, call 613-335-4200.



Just in: The stone building is a historic residence, built by a Scotswoman for the wife of a 19th-century politician.



Quebec's Charlevoix region has spectacular vistas

Scenic drives | Sublime highways

Coast Trail, N.S.

Winding roads etched in the mountainous sides of Cape Breton's northern shore. Watch for bald eagles soaring above the blue waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Icefields Parkway, Alta.

The main route through Banff and Jasper national parks. Elk, moose, black bear, canyons, rivers, mountains. A must for the things-to-do before—the last.

Dempster Highway, the Territories

From Dawson City to Inuvik, it's adventurous, it's rugged, it's caribou on the tundra. Best time to go is late August, when the leaves are changing colour.

Sea-to-Sky Highway, B.C.

Highway 99 begins on the Pacific's edge and climbs high into the Coast Mountains, past towering cliffs and emerald forests, toward picture-perfect Whistler.

North Shore of Lake Superior, Ont.

From Thunder Bay to a place called Netcaster. Rocky cliffs, gushing rivers, and forests bursting with pine, maple and spruce.

Wegans Parkway, Ont.

From Niagara-on-the-Lake to Port Erie—wonderful, cherry orchards, plant roadside fruit stands and rustic farmhouses, it's a south-of-France kind of drive.

Cypress Hills, Sask.

Head south from Maple Creek to this interprovincial park, where the Cypress Hills, which are shielded with Alberta, can be 600 m out of the plains, forests of pine and white spruce surround.

South Shore, N.S.

Toward Lunenburg, past Peggy's Cove and through Chester—the southern shore of Nova Scotia is stunning, with gorgeous views of the Atlantic.

Viking Trail, Nfld.

Up the west shore through Gros Morne National Park—rugged a scuba, icebergs and humpback whales.

St. Lawrence River/Gaspé Peninsula, Que.

View Montserrat Falls, the apples and wine country of Île d'Orléans, and the spectacular Charlevoix region. Then take the peninsula, up to Percé through a serene mix of sea, mountains and fishing coves.

CHRISTINE REYNOLDS

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Travel Sketchbook | BY AISLIN (A.K.A. TERRY) MEXNER



AISLIN'S ROCKY MOUNTAIN MEMOIR

Last summer the cartoonist got high—30,000 feet up, to be exact

THIS EASTERNER has recently had his second experience, courtesy of the Canadian West.

You should know that I live in downtown Montreal, within the shadow of our beloved mountains. Thanks to a trip to the Canadian Rockies last summer, I have had my moment of "Mount riding"—it turns out that my mountain is, after all, exactly a hill.

Why I hadn't visited the Rockies before is a bit of a puzzle, since I had seen most of the rest of Canada—lots of tea to see to tea, if you will. Nonetheless, by the end of all previous Western sojourns, I had just wanted

to get to Vancouver, my second favourite Canadian city. Consequently, my closest view of the Rockies prior to last July was from 30,000 feet on my way out of Calgary to Toronto.

The visit to the mountains started off with an invitation to give a presentation on political cartooning at the Banff Centre for the Arts. My wife, Mary, and I took our car with Calgary regalia and took the short, spectacular drive through the Rockies to Banff. We were hooked, and decided to take a few days of holiday following my speech to drive the 300 km from Banff to Jasper along

the Icefields Parkway. We enjoyed the whole experience so much that once we had fully explored Jasper, we turned around and drove the same route back to Banff!

Michael Phillips, a retired Canadian diplomat now living in Dublin, once told me that he is a teenager, he had visited cable or Jasper Park Lodge. One of his passengers was Walt Disney, who claimed that the Banff/Jasper drive was the most beautiful in the world. Whatever day you may say of Walt, he was known for his views. At each bend in the winding road—our heads craning to peer up through the windshields—we discovered that every mountain has unique and spectacular characteristics. Mary also an artist, and we visited with each other to identify the images in the outlines and contours of the mountain faces: animals, craggy friends and activists and, in my case, even politicians.

And the lakes! Which of us has not returned one of those magnificent postcards featuring a scintillating blue Rockies lake? I always assumed the picture had been Photoshopped, but it turns out I was wrong. The colour is real.

In Jasper, we were told that from the top of the mountain, absolutely magnificent views were to be had. Mary and I both suffer from vertigo, but we talked ourselves into taking the trip anyway and managed to keep our heads by engaging spirited conversation with fellow passengers (as our friend from Banff). All the while peering straight down—at our toes.

Also, the presence of humanism is not possible to ignore, even in the midst of all this magnificence. "Cyclists" everywhere, especially in Banff, where ATMs and designer outlets abound. Lattes are available everywhere, and I've never seen so many Starbucks—rolling rolling rolling! Nevertheless, my abiding impression is of lovely parks that are well-maintained by environmentally conscious residents and conscientious park staff. And, despite some of the visitors (as suggested in this sketchbook), everyone is happy to share their enthusiasm and wisdom. And the final thing one learns is the importance of respect for the region's original inhabitants: the animals.

Would you be lucky enough to visit Banff, Jasper or anywhere else in the Canadian Rockies. I guarantee there will be wonder for you around each bend! Watch for the special Rockies road signs—Canadian. Prepare to be amazed.



A sculpture of the town mascot, Jasper the Bear (based on James Simpson's cartoon character in Maclean's), looks on



"If you see a bear, consider not stopping." JASPER NATIONAL PARK PAMPHLET





IN FROM THE COLD?

ADNAN R. KHAN on whether this Mideast power-broker really is on a new path

THE SENSE OF ISOLATION and regret is almost palpable in this modest home as the air above Damascus's congested streets. A mixing bouquet of flowers and a handwritten message conveying a warm welcome to freedom sit idly on a side table. But for Fares Mound, freedom also is a kind of imprisonment. Now back in his parents' home after more than 30 years locked up in a Syrian prison, he is trying to resume past and present. When he last looked out of his living room window, Syria was in a state of flux. The 1973 war with Israel had ended a few years earlier without any clear victor, and Syria's youth, disoriented

and eager for change, were exploring political alternatives after more than a decade under the erratic leadership of the ruling Baath regime. For Mound, Damascus of the 1970s was the best solution. "We were young and reckless idealists," he recalls. "We were boys who gave ourselves a name that divided the world. Communism."

For that, they were arrested, charged with membership in a secret organization and jailed indefinitely. Three decades later, Mound

feels like a stranger in his own home. His sudden release in January, along with more than 120 other prisoners, was completely unexpected. "I couldn't overload my own home," says Mound, now 55 and suffering from a litany of medical problems, some the result of torture. "Things look so different." He'll never talk about what he endured, and

after three decades in prison, Mound continues to grieve for real change.

envisions the suffering as a footnote. What's more important is how a new day would be found for himself. "I have no personal anger toward the regime," he insists, "but I do find a duty to prove for real change."

Unaware that the Syrian regime is beginning to reform itself, Mound is determined to go it alone against his government's policies in about a year, and he's not alone. Capriciously Syria's human rights movement—reborn after a brief resurgence in the early days of Bashar al Assad's ascent to power in 2000 following the death of his father, Hafez—insurgency is on the rise. Some of the Syrian power-brokers are bending under the pressure of a coalition of U.S. military power across the border in Iraq. The softening may be reciprocal. In Washington, the



Syria's Accountability Act, passed by Congress last October, has become the cause of a heated debate at recent works, with some administration officials pushing for a softening of its sanctions. And there's been public praise in the West for Syria's co-operation in fighting international terrorism since 9/11. One Turkish official, after a February meeting between al Assad and Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, revealed that Syria is "on a new path."

But how real is Syria's rapprochement? Allegations surfaced in early February that the country had resumed arms shipments to Hezbollah guerrillas operating in Lebanon. Hamas, whose spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin was recently assassinated by Israeli forces, has found safe haven in Damascus for decades. Some observers say Syria is tacitly supporting the flow of insurgents determined to dismantle the occupying coalition in Iraq. Journalists are still being imprisoned at a startling rate, while infamously continue to seek permission if they create the status quo. "The changes at Syria are all cosmetic," says Hisham Makh, 73, a human rights lawyer and chairman of the country's Human Rights Association.

Syria's youth are bound to the regime's version of the truth," says one reformer.

In his office in a dingy, windowless room, Makh, a dark, thin man in the edge of Damascus's bustling city center, Makh plans forward with his work, despite more than 50 years of little progress—and two sojourns in the brutal prison system. In the occupation area, two missions (spies) of their own. Makh, after stacked precariously around them and the Gervais looking down from

THE STATE may be quietly promoting the spread of Islamic conservatism in rural areas of the country

poster. But reforms, Makh says, will come only when the regime repeats the state of emergency legislation that has been in place since the Baath party finally took power in 1963. "The secret police rule the country through the legislature," Makh says, "and under that law everything has been destroyed."

There is no civil power, no power in the opposition parties, no power in the press."

Syria's political reformists contend that the security services—the Makhidat—have all but completely wiped out political power away from al Assad. But, every aspect of Syrian life in some way connected to a branch of the Makhidat. According to a 2004 estimate by Alan George, a specialist on Syrian politics, there is one full-time secret policeman for every 153 Syrian adults, not counting the paid informants who, while one diplomat says, most are drivers.

The Makhidat seems to employ little of capacity in their spying techniques. There are few sophisticated spying devices or complex infiltration operations, but rather basic methods: eavesdrop, plain and simple. "The secret police are all around," Makh says with a casual sweep of his arm. "Sometimes they sit in their cars photographing people. Sometimes you'll find them sitting in the coffee shop across the street. I don't worry about them now. They are really stupid."

Makh meets regularly with foreign reporters, mostly directly with Amnesty International, and harp on the spy work at every opportunity. But most other Syrians

live in a culture of fear, quietly accepting the status quo and the elevation of the ruling elite to an almost mythical status. The Assad personality cult, beginning with Hafez and extended to his successor son, remains strong, with billboards of the father and son team scattered around Damascus and newspaper images posted onto car windshields and storefronts. "Syrians don't know how to choose," says Amr al-Jowzi, a 40-year-old lawyer who has taken on difficult and politically sensitive human rights cases. "They've never been taught to question. From the time they are small children, through their university education, Syria's youth are conditionally bound to the regime's version of the truth."

In his small second-floor office overlooking a municipal park in the Maadi district of Damascus, al-Jowzi, like Makh and Mualim, is cynical about Syria's recent liberalization. "The regime wants to make a show that things are better," he says. "But they are not. The machine still runs on greed." Cost changes, including an overhaul of the education system, are the only hope for real change, he says, while things like the recent prisoner release are simply token gestures.

According to some Syrian human rights groups, most of which operate clandestinely, the majority of those released in the recent amnesty, the first since 2000, were either exiles or adults, like Makh and Mualim, and religious activists. In the first case, according to one foreign diplomat, access is important: the law obliges the Syrian government to pursue political prisoners during exile and during a phase of assessing outside scrutiny. As for the second, al-Jowzi says that "our military leaders are starting to recognize the political advantage of allowing fundamentalist groups to open up in Syria. They are, after all, killing Americans in Iraq."

The days of head-cracking crackdowns on groups like the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic Resistance Party are long gone. Instead, Islamic conservatism is spreading through Syria, some of it quietly promoted by the state. In the countryside, where poverty and lack of education have created an ideal environment for fundamentalism, religious schools of the type that have inspired violent extremists in places such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are taking root. Al-Bassam speculates that the trend is taking place because the government is turning a blind eye. "They are Islamizing Syria," he



Fadi would welcome a religious education in his town—50% of Islam is under attack, he says

concedes. "And in a country that offers a desperate parent no hope for political change, what does he do? He goes to the mosque."

In the east, around Al-Qunaytha, a dirt, half-finished road straddling the Turkish border just 90 km west of Iraq, almost every branch of the secret police appears to have an office. And yet, local religious leaders are as closely investigating practices that, a few short years ago, would have drawn the government's wrath. "We do not deal at all with the regime," says Shihab Adh-Dhahab

stout. "The shiek avoids answering questions about edicts, in a place that appears positively overwhelmed with the Muslim sharia, which being allowed to much broader use."

People are listening to the masses. Abu Fadi, a 64-year-old father of 12 in Ma-hammud Dahi, a suburb 40 km west of Al-Qunaytha, would welcome a madrasah (religious school). "Right now my children have no way of learning the Koran," he says. "They would have to go somewhere else, maybe to South Arabia or Pakistan, to study Islam, but I cannot afford to send them." He says that others in Ma-hammud Dahi and the neighbouring villages feel much the same way, especially since the U.S. led invasion of Iraq. "All of Islam is under attack," Fadi says. "I'm even afraid that one day there will be a fight between America and us. One of them was the school a major in the Ma-hammud. They are better to us." And despite assurances from the Syrian government that it is cracking down on open border activities, Fadi notes infiltration into Iraq is continuing with some degree of state sponsorship.

Back in Damascus, Fadi Mualim's imprisonment hasn't really come to an end. Weeks after being released, he remains re-regimented in his parent's apartment, staring through the window at a world that's shrank to him. With a sweep of his arm, he broadcasts his new-found freedom. "I've come out of a lifeless hell," he says, "and I feel myself in the big sun."

"THE secret police rule this country. There is no civil power, no power in the opposition, no power in the press."

Shamoun, the imam at Shamoun, a village 10 km west of Al-Qunaytha. "We do not feel we have to explain ourselves to them."

Since 1980 or thereabouts, as a result of the oil boom, a school is being built. It will teach Islam to the old and the young. al-Jowzi says, with some skepticism, that religious texts and the power to interpret them are used in a few schools. "The most dangerous thing for our Islam is that this system of illiterate education," al-Jowzi says, "is coming to replace the one Islam is in danger of because anyone who accepts the true Islam will only want to live in an Islamic

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BUT WHAT ABOUT SPELLING?

A survivor of the progressive '70s applauds the return to school basics

I CAN STILL SEE my very practical father shaking his head as I dived into the pored over my latest high-school report card. A bare passing grade in chemistry and biology. No much to offer math, a subject I'd been allowed to drop after a dismal Grade 10 performance. But beside courses with such highfalutin names as "The Novel: An Social Fiction" and "Utopia"—and yes, I did enjoy it—I took interest in the standard English and social studies curriculum—my marks were all in the 80- to 90 per cent range. Dad was a man of

few words, a blessing for me in this instance. But his pained expression said it all: what's to become of you, boy?

I got by. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Alberta in 1978, I became a journalist and, contrary to my father's unspoken fears, never had to go back to my family cup-in-hand. But as teaching high school in the 1970s—the last great heyday of so-called progressive education—seemed like the next. Then, it all seemed wonderful and so innocent of the era—Morning News, I remember to recall that I never read a word of Shakespeare in high school (somehow none of my "classmates" touched on the greatest writer in English literature). My paper of choice is a subject that had been regarded by some as fluffy, with a heavy focus on current affairs, heavily tilted beyond the Minutes War Through university, personal study and my job. I've filled in some of these gaps. But I still can't do a lick of math.

Since my high-school days, the pendulum has swung back to some semblance of sanity. For one thing, most provinces have reintroduced more rigorous testing in key subject areas. Ontario's Grade 10 literacy test, which students must pass if they want to finish high school, is a prominent, albeit controversial example (and one that is currently under review). Across Canada, students in lower grades are now regularly given spelling-and-grammar tests. While the exams have no bearing on grades, if they do provide valuable information on how well students, and schools, are performing. As well, since provinces (Ontario, Quebec and Prince Edward Island being the exceptions) and all those territories require students to write some form of high-school diploma

exams, which count for anything from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of their graduating marks. The remainder of their grade is determined through teachers' assessments.

This makes me a healthy believer. The province-wide exams provide an objective benchmark of how well students are absorbing the core curriculum, while the input of teachers allows a more nuanced assessment of individual strengths and weaknesses the tests cannot measure. But the "pragmatists" are not unopposed. They want teachers to be the sole arbiters of students' grades (imagine that: in some cases, they would actually take the tests to evaluate

WHAT could be more ironic than an educator saying facts and skills are the 'least significant aspects' of schooling?

themselves). High-stakes standardized tests, they say, put undue pressure on students. What say, they force instructors to "teach to the test." To which people like me reply, "And your point is?"

Such exams, I'd argue, help focus teachers and school boards alike on delivering a more uniform and transparent standard of education, while discouraging floundering, experimental, overbearing, underwhelming, expensive ideas. This certainly seems to be the case in my home province of Alberta, where high-school diploma exams were adopted in 1973 (and in time to spare are the midway of writing them) and then standardized next year later. Despite courses, I'd happily to report, are no longer in vogue

The renewed emphasis on testing is just one example of how the shackles of progressivism are being challenged. Under the "child-centred learning" model as eagerly embraced by educators in the 1970s, encouraging students' creativity and fostering their sense of self-interest became prime objectives. Teaching the rules of grammar, even basic spelling, clearly stifled the former, while a pass-fail system of grading dealt a potential blow to the latter. So we tried to do away with both. The result? A lot of barely literate students—and angry parents.

But the progressivists will not give up without a fight. A recent column in that magazine ran under the progressive headline, "Why We Put Cards Check Our Kids." It reported on a Quebec school board's plan to program that banishes grades in favour of "student learning profiles" (sharing a child's progress over time—without any kind of performance ranking). But as the article acknowledged, it's a tough sell. Earlier "child-centred" attempts to replace letter grades with teachers' descriptive comments met with fierce parental resistance, and were eventually overruled.

The new great battleground will be over the increasing use of standardized tests. Teachers' unions (which, I must be stressed, don't speak for all teachers) have them. In May, the Canadian Teachers' Federation will devote an entire conference to the subject. At the Federation's annual meeting last summer, outgoing president Doug Willard made his position clear. Willard ticked off the things he said provinces might take on as issues. Among them: initiative, creativity, imagination, curiosity, conceptual thinking, problem-solving and—yes, personal development. "What they can measure," he added, "are valued skills, specific facts and facts themselves—the least interesting and least significant aspects of learning."

Now, think about that for a moment. What are these "valued skills" and "specific facts" Willard so highly dismisses? Science



accurate? Spelling? The ability to work through a math problem? Understanding the difference between how a market economy and centrally controlled one function? All of these are areas probed in the achievement tests taken by Alberta students at the end of Grades 3, 6 and 8, and all are equally pertinent to me. And while I'm all for a

healthy appreciation of any, my observation is this: today's kids, reared on endless spectacles of The Simpsons, are no slouches in this regard. If they need any further instruction on this, they might ponder this: what could be more ironic than a writer whose who asserts that facts and skills are the "least significant aspects" of schooling?

There is a reason why a lot of parents, myself included, welcome the "back to the basics" measures underway in many provinces. We remember who progressive education did for us. We expect better for our own children.

brian.bergman@maclean.ca or b.bergman



Cancer | Shedding light on the prostate

It is very early days yet but researchers at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto appear to have come up with a bright new treatment for prostate cancer—literally at the flick of a beam of light. What's more, it's one that holds the promise of a single shot cure with no surgery and no debilitating side effects like bladder problems or erectile

dysfunction, which, for many men, can make the choice between existing treatment as an option as the disease itself.

The treatment is the happy conjunction of two Israeli scientists' obsession with the compounds in highly sensitive diode lasers, and Canada's growing expertise in medical laser optics. A light-responsive drug, which clears the body very quickly, is injected into the bloodstream

and then "tuned on" by a series of carefully aimed probes aimed at the prostate.

The exciting side here is "excited oxygen," a by-product of turning on the chemical agent, explains Dr. Ron Wilson, the hospital's managing expert in photodynamic medicine. But the big mystery at this point is why the treatment appears to be so highly selective: only cancer tumours and their newly emerging but fragile blood supplies were destroyed, healthy tissue nearby appeared to be little affected. Researchers are hoping to show the technique will not affect sensitive prostate nerves which, when damaged by surgery or radiation, often lead to impotence.

Some of the results have been quite astounding, says Dr. John Thiboutot, the Princess Margaret surgeon who is one of the leaders of the study. In a study of 100 men to call this a breakthrough: the initial trial was just for safety, the real testing is still to come. Princess Margaret has tested the technique on only 24 patients, all with recurring tumours after an initial bout of radiation. Most received only very minimal doses, but for the six who were given larger amounts of the drug, five had major improvements. Follow-up trials are starting on two other Canadian cities as well as Prince and Israel.

If they show the same success, this technique may yet fulfill the promise of Harvard guru Dr. Judah Folkman, who shook the world of cancer research in 1995 with his insight that tumours could be starved by blocking their blood supplies. Many millions of drug company dollars have been spent, mostly in vain, trying to prove this theory. Until now, five thoughts it might be done simply by shedding a little light on the subject.

Noninvasive laser treatment, safe, and effective, tested on by Israeli scientists

Survey | Taking a needle for your country

Bill up your sleeves, Canada. This time your government really is out for blood—and a nice sample to boot. Statistics Canada is launching a \$9 million program to collect small amounts of body fluids from up to 31,000 respondents. The idea, part of a large health survey that will measure, among other things, how fit—or fat—Canadians really are. Also, what, like your tears, are their stress levels and environmental contaminants in our pump-and-treat systems.

"This is a very voluntary" donation, says Mark Twiss, a University of Saskatchewan physiologist, according to StatsCan to help run the survey. "We've never really done anything like this before." Other countries have, though, mostly the U.S., where previous surveys detected high blood levels of lead, a finding that pushed legislators to ban lead-based lead additives in gas.



What StatsCan wants to know is the country's true levels of obesity, diabetes and high cholesterol, as well as the amounts of heavy metals and pesticides in the average body, and the incidence of such diseases as asthma, herpes and HIV. People tend to underestimate their weight and overestimate their height on test-day surveys, thinking cups. Having "fit obesity" is a precursor to a diabetes epidemic, we need to be prepared. The survey won't happen before 2000 and will require participants to be collected over a 12-month period to account for seasonal variations and to give the researchers all the data they need.

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TAKING THE WATERS

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ENTREPRENEURS and marketing experts have long recognized that, given the right combination of buzzwords and ingenuity, drinking water could transcend its hand-drawn destiny as a tumbler, colander, or life-sustaining liquid. In fact, they figured out this with the right packaging, boring old water at first—out easy. In the mid '80s, the first bottled water to go mainstream—the Bona and the Perrier—were designed to satisfy a collective inclination toward more health- and trend-conscious consumer choices. These waters (often named for some pastoral spring picture on the bottle) were “distilled” or “pur-

ified” or “deionized,” with minerals already added or stripped away.

Two decades later, bottled water couldn't even take the fast-growing category in the beverage market (in 2003, Canada produced 500 million liters). Only now scientists and brand experts are moving beyond the endless cascade of branded waters that are purely crystal clear. “When a consumer habit becomes old, at least in fashion terms,” says Bruce Philip, co-founder of Toronto-based engineering firm Gamma-Water, Philip, “it eventually the market begins to look for some way to reinvent a ‘fashion,’ the arrival of super-

artificial things that new rules exist, like Tums or Robitids, are going to make you think,” says Rodie Schwartz, a registered dietitian in Toronto.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE: A treadmill.

WATER JOE (US\$1.79 per 500 ml)

SOURCE: Nestlé National Forest, Wis. **SUPER POWER:** Instant energy. Water Joe’s “the first caffeine-enhanced and amino acid water.” No calories, sugar or preservatives, and, “taste, just, it tastes just like water.” **EXPERT VERDICT:** In excess, caffeine is dehy-

drating, says Schwartz. Too much Water Joe may actually defeat the purpose of drinking water.

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE: A little Jesus Brown.

OXY-WATER (\$1.99 per 500 ml)

SOURCE: Toronto tap water. **SUPERPOWER:** Overall well-being. Oxy-Water is distilled and “oxygenated,” which “can help produce longer and thinner of breath, improve mental clarity [and] bolster suppressed immune systems.”

EXPERT VERDICT: “I don’t believe oxygen in water has any physiological effect,” says Dr. Timothy Durance, director of the Food, Nutrition and Health program at the University of British Columbia. “The manufacturers of the machines aren’t designed for that.” **SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE:** Open a window.

GRACE AU SMARTWATER

(US\$1.11 per 20 oz.) **SOURCE:** British Columbia across the U.S. **SUPER POWER:** Detoxifies and promotes rapid hydration. A “biologically better water,” which is “super charged with the natural enhancement of electrolytes.”

EXPERT VERDICT: Vaporized distilled water is more or less distilled, says Durance. And the amount of electrolytes in Body Smart might as promote rapid hydration, “otherwise it would not be a electrolyte like Gatorade.” **SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE:** Have an orange.

KADALAH MOUNTAIN SPRING WATER

(US\$1.25 per liter) **SOURCE:** Unadorned Canadian spring. **SUPER POWER:** Induces bliss. Treated with “Quantum Resonance Technology” which “restructures the intermolecular bonding of the water molecules purifying water into dynamic ‘living’ water” with “laminar bonding properties.”

EXPERT VERDICT: “Water is water,” says Schwartz. “It’s H₂O. That’s the molecule for structure, don’t change.” **SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE:** Any smoochings have happened—drink up. □



SPEED BREAK FOOD

No time to boil or peel an egg? Let us do it for you.

THE OTHER DAY at the supermarket, I noticed that boxes of microwave popcorn had been gathered up and piled down in aisle ten near the checkout lines. Not surprising, given our headlines and a focus about microwave popcorn flavour vapours. What in God's name are "flavour vapours," you ask? Well, I can only say that the headlines ordered to an employee at a food place in Jupiter, Fla., who seemingly used instant microwave Flavon and Fragrance Inc. for exposing him to a chemical that caused lung disease. This provoked concern by U.S. authorities that the "flavour essence" fumes released when you opened a bag of microwave popcorn could be hazardous to consumers.

Who knows what they'll decide in the end, but in the meantime, I can't help feeling blessed. I have narrowly escaped the potential fate of microwave popcorn eaters, only because I've always felt that microwave popcorn was the world's most generous invention. Here is how you make popcorn: heat up corn kernels until they explode. Salt to taste. Try this in a pot. You'll be surprised to find that it works exactly the same way as in a bag. Only a conical. A bag of corn kernels will set you back roughly a loonie, and yield maybe 20 pots of popcorn. The microwave version comes in a three-bag package, for three craves the size.

No, but you want "instant dinner." Actually, that's not a problem. Try instant ham!

World's best dinner!

I don't know when, exactly, we started filling in the oven for deliciousness of food



efficiency was a TV dinner? Instant mashed potatoes? But at some point, we fell so hard that we lost all common sense. I'm all for labour-saving devices in food preparation. I support replacing the butter churn. Similarly, I don't want to keep egg laying hens in my yard. But really, it isn't that serious to drop some bought eggs into boiling water, and then peel them. So I'm not convinced by the "new" pie-handled, pie-podded eggs from Nutri-Farm Farms, now available by the half dozen at my local Dominion. Simply "mash eggs before using."

Thanks, but no. Tempting as it may be, I can't justify paying as much as 18 times more for "new" and "improved" foods that are so easy to prepare. I'd have to be an occasional bag deal to require that level of convenience in the kitchen. On the other hand, in the name of convenience, I decided to see

MAYBE I should invent instant dinner food bags that you can strap to your face. Just tie to your head and slurp!

If I could, in fact, prepare an egg salad bowl while lying face down on the floor. So I took those pie-handled eggs home and immersed in mayo from my new opaque bottle of Hellmuth's—no need for a knife! Just flip the cap open with your mouth, squeeze out the egg, plant your face in the bowl and

slurp with your nose! Eat with your mouth! Maybe I should invent instant dinner food bags that you can strap to your face. Too lazy to cook with pots? Afraid of microwave flavour vapours? Try our new pie-handled chicken in thermo-handled! Just tie to your head and slurp!

There is a conflation in the marketing, you have probably noticed, between the idea of efficiency and the myth of being on the go. Hellmuth didn't want to suggest that people are lazy, so instead, they characterized us as busy, busy. Too hurried to eat properly, need bags. No time for outside meals when. Consider one of those popcorns in a tube. This is how we arrived at a moment that is no longer merely instant, but also portable, in the form of Outback to Go breakfast bars currently being advertised on TV with someone joggling while eating a bowl of hot oatmeal. Like they can't get up five minutes earlier to run on the kettle.

Or consider Kraft Foods' instant microwave EasyMac. Kraft long ago acquired the world's simplest dinner, boiled macaroni with cheese sauce. But wait! I mean not that maybe Kraft Dinner was too time-consuming. So the kitchen gurus at Kraft slaved away, sensitive to the hurried lives of working mothers and tube-fed teenagers, and came up with EasyMac. Simply mix! Just add water and zap in the microwave! Not that they've abandoned the original KD. There is a new ad campaign for that, too, where you mix KD into a blender and then, you guessed it, slurp the liquefied result from a tube. ☞



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CLOSINGNOTES



LISTING

On April 14, the Poles will play Winnipeg's Burleson Canteen. Thanks to the band's first show together is over a decade. Con artist of Frank Black (formerly Black Francis) and before that (Chris Thompson), the Deal, Jay Landino and David Lowery, the band's second album is filled with combing various punk acts with radio-friendly melody on such songs as 'Wave of Misdirection' and 'Where to My'.



Music—going the way for the alternative rock explosion of the early '90s that played by Black's reputation and all without leaving for it, the band broke up in the spring of 2001. But joined the band, while Black's record was increasingly more mainstream, the band's return with a series of studio-city releases, starting in the Poles (www.frankblack.net). Not surprisingly, all these are sold out, as some fans will be the more of actors. JONATHAN GURIN

Films | One of Canada's endangered species can be saved

It's no secret Canadian films are a tough sell when pitted against Hollywood blockbusters. Their budgets are small and their budgets are small. And when there is a Canadian film that picks your interest, good luck finding it on a screen near you. Enter the Vancouver-based First Weekend Club—a grassroots marketing team determined to both boost exposure about this country's cinema and get people out there on opening weekend. Box office recognition from the first few days of a movie's release will determine how long it stays in the theatres and help it to expand into more markets.

The FWCC offers its services for hire to film distributors, and keeps an ever-growing list of members—in Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary and Edmonton—directors of new releases. And the club makes movie-going attractive, with post-screening director

The First Weekend Club is trying to help independent films (above) compete in a world of Hollywood blockbusters.

Q & A, panel discussions and launch parties. "Some great Canadian films have developed as thespians because they lack big-name actors and directors," says Anna Adams, FWCC's executive director. "We're trying to add value and take the risk out of putting \$12 down to see a Canadian film."

Currently, FWCC is working to promote a mainstream, The Delicate Art of Parking. The club played the Vancouver car-wash parking lot screening the film—actually scoring people to see a Canadian movie. JOHN FORD

THE DETAILS
For membership information visit www.firstweekendclub.ca

TV | Can you believe the Nerve of the CBC?

The CBC has a bit of a post-war, low-budget youth culture show, since the 1970s. April 8, 8:30 p.m. EST. Tonight (if the 1-10-20 net, the weekly late-night youth program) is based on the reality series 'The Nerve' (see the search for young love in Winnipeg's gay scene and a rather hip-hop band that inspires young members to change their lives).



Internet | Stream me out to the ball game

It's Wednesday, 1:45 p.m., and the ball game is about to begin. Maybe it's the Expos and Giants. Maybe the Yanks and Twins. Regardless, someone's playing and you can't watch it—sawing as you're at work or your cable provider doesn't run out-of-market games. So, maybe you'll catch the highlights after the game, right? Not necessary. Last year, Major League Baseball began broadcasting games over the Internet, giving subscribers the chance to watch the live action as it is streamed right to their computers.

MLB's live service drew 190,000 customers for the 2003 baseball season, and this number is expected to double this year. Subscribers can choose from three audio and video packages, which range from US\$14.95 a season for Internet audio broadcasts to US\$99.95 (or US\$19.95 a month) for MLB All Access, which includes more than 250 live games a month. All Access subscribers can also view a treasure

trove of recorded games that date as far back as the 1930s—you can hear Mel Allen and Phil Rizzuto announce Roger Maris's 61st home run, watch Sandy Koufax pitch, or relive Yonnie's World Series catches.

There are some obvious drawbacks to the service. Streaming video, although improving in quality, is not TV. The picture is grainy at full screen resolution, and sound, while not poor, has a tinny edge to it. But that's a price some ball fans are more than willing to pay for a season's ticket to their own desktop diamond.

Video Game | Island assault

In *Far Cry* (Ubisoft), Jack Carver takes his unit on a fictional Malaysian island with a mad scientist, rubbery mercenaries—and what seems to be the British crown prince. A survival experiment, then, to must fight his way out of this island doctor's laboratory. Impassioned with a variety of weapons, we expect and a lot of ammo. This respectable shooter game has pretty advanced graphics—on par with most of the best—on a 128MB graphics card before heading to the island.

Software | Go Roxio

More and more, we're using our home computers to store and enjoy digital media files of music, photos and home movies. And newer computers have the hardware to create DVDs from these files. But when it comes to the fun stuff, like editing pictures, ripping music and burning discs, we're often stuck using a bunch of different, one-dimensional programs. While Apple's iComputer users have a good product on iLife, an excellent suite of programs that manages a Mac user's digital files, it hasn't been that easy for a PC user—until now. Now there's a company that's built its name developing software for burning CDs. Its

just released Easy Media Creator 7, which handles all your digital file needs. It comes with simple photo and movie editing programs, an array of CD- and DVD-burning features for music and data discs, and an easy way to back up your hard drive onto blank CDs or DVDs. One of the program's best features is its task-oriented home screen, which lays out all these options in a simple menu. Overall, Easy Media Creator 7 is a gem of a program easy to use and well worth the \$50 price tag. It is, though, a bit of a security bag, so less you've got a moderately powerful system, launching the program and starting a task can be slow going.

Gadgets | Fun phone

Will wireless wonders never cease? The Treo 650 is the first quad-band phone available in Canada, and Treo users make and receive calls in almost every country around the world. This is a full featured cellphone, as well as a personal organizer for emailing, e-mail and Web browsing. Plus, it sports an integrated camera. But this smart phone comes with a

steep price tag: \$300 with a two-year voice and data service plan.



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John Intini starts a sentence ...
Louise Pitre finishes it

Louise Pteris is by far Canada's most famous Dancing Queen—even if the Smooth Jazz Jala, Ont.-born performer has ended her two-year run in the ABBA inspired Broadway hit *Mamma Mia!* In Toronto recently to perform in *Enos's Song*—a celebrity benefit show for Ontario's Perinatal Loss Support Services—Pteris, 47, finished *Mailroom Assistant* Editor John **Infante's** sentence.

performers who say they don't read them. Of course you read them. You just hope it says something great and if it doesn't you feel bad for awhile.

MY FAVORITE BAND IN THE '70s WAS...
Earth, Wind & Fire. I was a super disco fan. But funk, not the crap disco came later.

THE FUNK MOVEMENT STARTED WHEN I WAS AT...
University and I danced every night away.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR AVERAGE...
STAGE AND BROADWAY... isn't much. You're slugging it out eight times a week like you would anywhere else.

WHEN I WAS A KID MY BEDROOM WALLS...
didn't have any posters on them. I had an

Montréal and local French singers.

READING REVIEWS... is a waste of time and a...
Snooze-time exercise. But I don't believe

Books | Urban civil war

[illegible]

Best Sellers

Fiction

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1 | THE TWO WILD DUCKS, (see Answer 14) | |
| 2 | THE PRINCE OF PEAPACK,
Edmund Spenser (16) | 2 |
| 3 | THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SUN,
Ray Stevens (3) | 3 |
| 4 | THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN PARADISE,
John Donne (1) | 4 |
| 5 | GLIMMERING THROUGH THE PALM TREES,
John Donne (1) | 5 |
| 6 | AMERICA'S RIGHTEOUS, John in Court (2) | 6 |
| 7 | NEON SPRING, Robert Jordan (3) | 7 |
| 8 | THE LAST JUNGLE, John Galsworthy (2) | 8 |
| 9 | PLAYED WITH FIRE, Peter Brown (2) | 9 |
| 10 | THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME,
Mark Haddon (5) | 10 |

Non-fiction

1. **MISSISSAUGA'S JOURNAL**
James Munro (1968)
2. **SHADES DRAWN WITH THE PENN**
Brenda Galloway (22)
3. **HOW SHALL THE CHANGING MUSEUM?**
Narcissa MacLean (3)
4. **ADAMANT AS, ENIGMAS**, Edward Sklar (2)
5. **QUEST FOR THE**, Bruce Cook (3)
6. **THE PAPER HOUSE**, John Morgan (3)
7. **JUNE**, Ted Kautsky (3)
8. **THE LAST WINTER**, Nina, Richard Thomas (2)
9. **THE EPIC**, Elizabeth, Kim-Anne (1)
10. **WAVE, WHERE'S MY COUNTRY?**
Michael Moore (2)

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CLOSINGNOTES



Drama | The double life of Professor K

winning playwright **Brian Corder** doesn't like being approached by his fellow dramatists. "I'm not interested in a play award," he says. Corder is delighted to be one of the five nominees for this year's Lambda Literary Award for Drama, one of 20 awards given out annually by the Lambda Literary Foundation to recognize the best in gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender writing. The 43-year-old is nominated for *Prok*, which explores his controversial suicide file of his fiancée.

Alfred Kibbey, whose public image as a straightened, bow-tied

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Prabhu's decision stemmed from Kauray being called Professor KJ pronounced at Kinnery's theatre Projecti Manitoia in 2005, followed by a successful run at Philadelphia's Rock Play House in 2006. While certainly not one of the staples – bookends of the Wilkes production included two proportions of male and female gossamers, and sex and 'believe – the play came to be more than shock or titillation. Prabhu concedes Kauray, who died in 1994, a major cultural figure at the 18th century. "He published his research in the late 1940s and early 1950s, a time when no one would expect the word 'transsexual,'" says Prabhu. "He started the dialogue that became the base of modernity."



Music | A sort-of self-assured songwriter

But *Seamus* avoids eye contact, staring at the table when talking. He's the kind of guy who has a panic attack moments before meeting his old fling Davies and bolts from the scene. And let's be little down on himself: "I just feel like we sort need of the time writing songs," he says. "But people have been very supportive, like I know what I'm doing."

While the two-to-be exultant heart beat that big breakthrough in the album, he is expected to pitch to Jim McCarthy, Elvis Costello, John Hall, Chris Martin of Coldplay, to name a few, and a rock critic. And for all his on-the-beats demeanor, a certain off-guardness comes through on his latest album, *Zenobia*. Working again with the London-based recording producer *Marvin Szeles*, Szeles's 12 recorded the 13-song recording in only 17 months. "I think the time is just when the lake is more downy money around, and you could be for New York for the weeks to record and then to LA, to mix, and they get you up in the air," he says, mentioning that he had an apartment in Nashville for the weeks when he made *Blue Sky* (2001) with attorney-in-fid producer *Maverick*. "I want to know how to be more like that."



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MACLEAN'S



THE GO-TO CITIES GUY

Bob Young is looking for answers about municipal governance

OVER THE LAST YEAR this corner has spent a lot of time talking about university research and about how our cities are governed. So when I read that the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada had given a \$2.5 million grant for one huge study into municipal governance, my ears perked up. The kind of money is pocket change in some branches of physics or genetics, but for social science it's huge.

When I saw that the grant went to my alma mater, the University of Western Ontario,

I was even more interested.

When I found out the grant went to Robert A. Young, I looked it up together with some

Bob Young is in his third decade at the forefront of research into how governance functions in Canada. And he's also a top tactician in the big debates. In the 1980s, when I took his public-policy seminar and worked harder for him than for any other prof, he was an authority on the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement.

By the mid-'90s he'd become

the go-to guy for expertise on how countries fall apart and how Quebec might secede. He was also, of course, the dean of *Quebec and the Future of Canada*, that became a standard reference on the topic. He was involved in both the Parti Québécois caucus. ("It was like Gerald Rivin," he says. "Guy Charbonneau" is a senior cabinet minister in Jacques Parizeau's government—"Had a wireless microphone, and the machines were all in their throats, and Charbonneau would hand them the rifle and they'd ask their questions.")

Now he's on campus. And now that the SSHRC grant means he'll lead a team of 60 researchers from every province, nine international experts, and perhaps 200 student researchers in a five-year mission on all of the way policy is made in Canadian municipalities. And not just by municipal governments: much of the study will look at how the federal, provincial and municipal governments bump up against each other—often good ways, sometimes less so—as they deliver services to Canadians.



"These municipalities are a web of relationships with provincial and federal officials," Young told me. "It's everything from getting grants for travelling air tickets, to saving dinner and trying to agree on a program to help some segment of the immigrant community get a better start, to social housing."

At one level, Young's new focus makes sense: it's a hot topic in Canadian politics. But why was the debate at Ottawa over a "New Deal" for cities hanging up on the simple question of who's going to pay for municipal services. Young is looking at a much bigger conflict.

"It seemed to me that this was the wide open field," he told me, "because most people who are in local government studies and there are very few of them—do and think that studies. So they'll study problems of urban Aboriginals in Saskatchewan, but there was no kind of national or pan-Canadian effort to understand the whole

thing. They're all isolated and fragmented."

So here comes Young and his researchers. They'll look at six different kinds of government activity, from emergency settlement to emergency planning to strategies for helping urban Aboriginal populations. They won't just investigate government activity, but pressure from interest groups—and not just groups that influenced a government decision, but groups that might have been depressed by and didn't. Why did the chamber of commerce go to influence some Nova Scotia town's tourism strategy, but the local heritage society got frozen out?

They'll ask the same questions in every province so results can be compared across jurisdictions. They won't just concentrate on big cities, or economic issues or urban studies research. "The typical policy field study—urbanism, city emergency planning, suburban—but there's also history, Vermont and maybe some rural municipalities," Young says. "So whether municipalities, times two studies per province, we're going to have 80 municipalities studied."

And what are they looking for? Good policy—or at least good governance. Is it better if all three levels of government coordinate activity—or if one level stays out and keeps things less complicated? Do you get better performance if you create profit-making private companies or if you keep them out? Do you get better policy if you consult with citizens' groups or if you leave the small issues of domestic experts?

The five-year study will produce dozens of separate reports, some book-length. Bob Young is leading what amounts to a royal commission into the way government works in Canada. But he's doing it more systematically than any of his panel of experts could, and at bargain rates—prof and grad students travel cheap. Politicians argue all the time about how we're governed. Finally, here come some answers.

To comment, e-mail paul.wells@utoronto.ca. Read Paul Wells's column "Politics Weekly" at www.macleans.ca/pawells/.



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